This graduate seminar seeks to give students a rigorous introduction to modern political thought. As in previous years, it will serve as a companion course to the undergraduate lectures in political theory. However, at certain points during the semester they will diverge quite considerably.

**Course Requirements:** Two essays of approximately 10 pages in length that both textually and critically engage the ideas being studied in this class. Students with a more focused research project may speak with the instructor about preparing a 20 page paper. Also, each student should be prepared to present a brief, yet focused, 15 minute presentation on one of the readings.

**Required Books**
All books are available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore.


**Class 1**  
*Modernity, Interpretation, and Representation*


**Class 2**  
*Social Order, Obligation, and the Social Contract*


**Class 3**  
*Social Order, Obligation, and the Social Contract (continued)*


**Class 4**  
*The Social Contract as Moral Mandate*


**Class 5**  
*The Social Contract as Moral Mandate (continued)*


*For those students who did not attend the reading group led by Professor Murphy, they should also read the first two chapters of Rawls Theory of Justice.*

**Class 6**  
*The Social Contract, Constitutive Power, and the General Will*


**Class 7**  
*Equality, Inclusion, and Constitutive Power*

- Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
Class 8  
**Non-Contractual Forms of Ethical and Political Belonging**  

Class 9  
**Non-Contractual Forms of Ethical and Political Belonging continued**  
- Hegel, G. F. W. *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, Parts 2 and 3.

Class 10  
**Communism as an Ideal**  

Class 11  
**Communism as an Ideal Continued**  

Class 12  
**After “Man”: The Critique of “Man” the Human and Humanism**  
- Heidegger, Martin. ‘The Letter on Humanism’. From *Basic Writings*.

Class 13  
**Human Dignity Rethought**  

Class 14  
**Is the Ubermensch (Over-Man) Post Human?**  