COURSE GOALS:

This course introduces students to contemporary Continental-European philosophy by focusing on the historical development of a "critical social theory." We will examine the critical reception of Hegel's and Marx's social theories by 20th-century philosophers. Special emphasis will be placed upon the works of Jürgen Habermas, who has offered two extremely influential accounts of a critical social theory: the first based upon the connection between knowledge and action, the second upon the connection between communication and validity.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, fidelity to an academic journal, two midterm examinations and a final paper.

Class Participation, seminar presentations and discussion=40%
Midterm examinations 2 @ 15% each=30%
Journal (Required though ungraded)=10%
Final Paper 10-15 pages=20%

POLICIES:

Open, respectful and critical discussion is the life-blood of this course. Journals prepare participants for classroom deliberation, and the final paper offers students the opportunity to respond in depth to a single topic. Journals will be collected every two weeks, and the final paper is due on the day scheduled for the final examination. 3 unexcused absences will result in a full grade reduction.

TEXTS:
2. Habermas, Jürgen: Knowledge and Human Interest (Beacon Press, Boston 1971).

READING SCHEDULE
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM OF THE SELF IN 19TH- AND 20TH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

WEEK ONE
TUES, JUNE 18TH: CLASSICAL IDEALISM.
1. Solomon, Chapters 1 - 4.

THURS, JUNE 20TH: THE CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM.
1. Solomon, Chapters 5 - 8.

HABERMAS'S INITIAL CONCEPTION OF A CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY: KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN INTEREST.

WEEK TWO
TUES, JUNE 25TH: RADICALIZING A THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: SOCIAL THEORY AS FUNDAMENTAL EPISODEMOLOGY.
1. Habermas, "Hegel's Critique of Kant" (pp. 7-25).
2. McCarthy, "Knowledge and Human Interest: A Preliminary Sketch" (pp. 53-60).
3. Habermas, "Marx's Metacritique of Hegel" (pp. 25-43).

THURS, JUNE 27TH: ACTION AND INTEREST AS THE ROOTS OF KNOWLEDGE.
1. Habermas, "The Idea of the Theory of Knowledge as Social Theory" (pp. 43-65).
2. McCarthy:
   A) "The Technical Interest of the Empirical-Analytic Sciences" (pp. 60-68).
   B) "The Practical Interest of the Historical-Hermeneutic Sciences" (pp. 68-75).
   C) "The Emancipatory Interest of Critical Theory" (pp. 75-91).

WEEK THREE
TUES, JULY 2ND: THE INTERST IN EMANCIPATION.
1. McCarthy: "The Idea of Philosophy and Its Relation to Social Theory" (pp. 91-126).
2. FILM: Sex, Lies and Videotape (Evening)

THURS, JULY 4TH: HOLIDAY

WEEK FOUR
TUES, JULY 9TH: KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN INTERST IN RETROSPECT.
1. Habermas, "Self-Reflection as Science: Freud's Psychoanalytic Critique of Meaning" (pp. 214-246).
2. Habermas, "Knowledge and Human Interest: A General Perspective" (pp. 301-317).

THURS, JULY 11TH: REVIEW

BENHABIB'S ACCOUNT OF THE 19TH-CENTURY ORIGINS OF CRITIQUE: HEGEL'S LEGACY.
WEEK FIVE

TUES, JULY 16TH: IMMANENT CRITIQUE.
1. Benhabib, Introduction (pp. 1-19).
2. Benhabib, "The Origins of Immanent Critique" (pp. 19-44).
3. Benhabib, "The Origins of Defetishizing Critique" (pp. 44-70).

THURS, JULY 18TH: ETHICAL RECONCILIATION.
1. Benhabib, "Autonomy and Ethical Life" (pp. 70-102).

HONNETH'S RETURN TO HEGEL'S EARLY, JENA WRITINGS FOR NORMATIVE FOUNDATIONS OF CRITICAL THEORY.

WEEK SIX

TUES, JULY 23RD: ETHICAL CO-EXISTENCE AS THE BASIS OF HUMAN LIFE.
1. Honneth, "An Alternative Tradition in Modern Social Theory: Hegel's Original Idea" (pp. 1-65).

THURS, JULY 25TH: HONNETH'S RECONSTRUCTION OF HEGEL'S ORIGINAL IDEA.
1. Honneth, "A Systematic Revewal: The Structure of Social Relations of Recognition" (pp. 65-141).

WEEK SEVEN

TUES, JULY 30TH: HONNETH'S RECONSTRUCTION OF HEGEL'S ORIGINAL IDEA.
1. Honneth, "A Systematic Revewal: The Structure of Social Relations of Recognition" (Continued).

THE CRITIQUE OF "OBJECTIVISM": INSTRUMENTAL REASON, POSITIVISM AND REIFICATION.

THURS, AUG. 1ST: MARX'S MATERIALIST RECONCEPTUALIZATION OF ETHICAL LIFE.
1. Benhabib, "Critique as Crisis Theory: Autonomy and Capitalism" (pp. 102-147).

WEEK EIGHT

TUES, AUG. 6TH: ONE-DIMENSIONAL SOCIAL LIFE.
1. Benhabib, "The Critique of Instrumental Reason" (pp. 147-186).

THURS, AUG. 8TH: ONE-DIMENSIONAL SOCIAL LIFE.
1. FILM: Glenn Gary, Glenn Ross.

THE TOTAL CRITIQUE OF WESTERN LOGOCENTRISM.

WEEK NINE

TUES, AUG. 13TH: IDENTITY LOGIC AND AESTHETIC FUSION.
1. Benhabib, "Autonomy as Mimetic Reconciliation" (pp. 186-224).

THURS, AUG 15TH: IDENTITY LOGIC AND AESTHETIC FUSION.
1. FILM: Brazil.

WEEK TEN
TUES, AUG. 20TH: Autonomy Again: Communicative Flexibility and Aesthetic Fluidity.
1. Benhabib, "Toward a Communicative Ethics and Autonomy" (pp. 279-335).

THURS, AUG. 22ND: Autonomy Again: Communicative Flexibility and Aesthetic Fluidity.
1. Student Evaluations.

**FINALS WEEK**: Final Papers due when Final is scheduled.