Course description:

In his Critical Philosophy, Immanuel Kant sought to establish the conditions and boundaries of possible experience and cognition through a critique of our faculties. While Kant took himself to have shown the errors and transgression of his predecessors, the philosophers in his immediate aftermath argued that his system had left them with a philosophical problem: In different ways, many of the romantic and idealist philosophers after Kant argue that Kant's thought leaves a gulf between nature and freedom, between theoretical cognition and practical reason.

In this course, we will look at some of the critical points of departure in Kant's thought and follow two lines of inquiry in the Kantian legacy. We will consider two ways of bridging the gap between reason and nature, one is by appeal to imagination and aesthetics, the other by historicity.

The course readings further the students' understanding of Kant's philosophy and introduces them to texts by Schiller, Herder, de Staël, Hegel and others.

Course objectives:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- read texts from the Kantian tradition critically and carefully
- explicate the meaning of these texts through exegesis and careful analysis
- understand the central philosophical concerns and problems that motivate the different authors on the curriculum
- express and critically assess the different positions and arguments of the texts on the curriculum