**PHIL GR9750  Problems in Political Philosophy: The Place and Role of Work in Modern Political Philosophy (MW 12:10 - 2) (Second Part of the Fall Term)**

**Axel Honneth – Columbia University  - Department of Philosophy**

This course will explore the role and place of work in modern political philosophy. Hegel was probably the first thinker to emphasize that participation in the division of labor is a necessary condition for full citizenship. Since then it is continuously debated within political philosophy (a) to what degree such participation can be seen as a normative component of a well-ordered democratic society, (b) whether the conditions of work have to be regulated by specific notions of justice, and (c) how the normative quality of work can meaningfully be measured. The main representatives of this philosophical-political debate were after Hegel Karl Marx, Hannah Arendt, and Emile Durkheim. Next to the central texts of these four authors the syllabus will also include passages from the recent debate on meaningful work and the limits of private government.

**The course is divided in three sections:**

1. The centrality of work in Hegel's Philosophy of Right
2. The modern debate on the place and role of work within a democratic society: Marx, Durkheim, Arendt
3. The recent debate: meaningful work and the limits of private government

**Course Readings:**

The course will cover in its first round the chapter on "civil society" in Hegel's "Philosophy of Right". This longer examination will be followed by a reading of central passages from Marx' early writings, Durkheim's "Division of Labor" and Hannah Arendt's "The Human Condition". In it's last part the course will deal with two recent books on the question of how to do justice to the conditions of work: Elizabeth Anderson's "Private Government" and Andrea Veltman's "Meaningful Work".

**If not otherwise announced the course will be taught remotely on Zoom**

**The course will be taught remotely in Fall 2020, given the challenges of physical distancing for larger classes**.