

Whether positively connoted as an ennobling activity or as toil and drudgery, work is central for human existence. We need to work physically and intellectually to sustain our own lives as well as the lives of others. Drawing on social philosophy and representations of work across various media, this course engages with the following questions: What is the justification for past and present hierarchies of labor? What are the practical and ethical consequences of such labor hierarchies? What is the status of human dignity in today's world of work? What is our responsibility for working conditions domestically and globally? Materials range from texts by Kant, Hegel, Marx and Arendt to current social theorists like Michael Hardt (*Affective Labor*), Maurizio Lazzarato (*Immaterial Labor*) to Teju Cole and extend to filmic engagements with work, for instance, *Norma Rae*, *Office Space*, *Clockwatchers*, *Play Hard*, *Work, For Comparison*, *Invisible Hands*, or *Amazon Empire*. **All materials and instruction in English!**



German 1506: Work - Theories & Practices in Global Perspective

A&S Gen. Ed.: Philosophy & Ethical Thinking

Spring 2022-4 TTh 2:30-3:45pm 129 CL

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