We will read works by the post-Kantian idealists Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, and by the critics of that tradition, Schopenhauer, Marx, and Nietzsche. Among the former, Hegel is the most challenging, as well as one of the hardest philosophers you will ever encounter. Marx’s critique of German Idealism, particularly of Hegel, is politically far-reaching, and Nietzsche’s challenge to the tradition remains one of the most enticing. We’ll spend roughly two weeks on Fichte and Schelling, a month and a half on Hegel, take a brief look at Schopenhauer, and then spend a month on Marx and Nietzsche. (Time permitting, we will look at Kierkegaard.)

This course is reading intensive.