Henri Bergson's philosophy of duration and process was the most influential movement in France at the beginning of the 20th Century. It fell out of favor in mid-century, in spite of its influence on Merleau-Ponty, but recently it has seen new influence thanks to Deleuze. In this course, we will focus on Bergson's philosophy of memory and time, reading *Matter and Memory* (which develops a philosophy of time from his studies of aphasia and amnesia) and *Duration and Simultaneity* (which develops from Einstein’s special theory of relativity.) We also work on Bergson's ideas about process and creativity, and end with his late work, *Two Sources of Morality and Religion*. Along the way, we will contrast Bergson with Bachelard, and we will read Deleuze's important early book, *Bergsonism*. Our ultimate goal in analyzing Bergson's texts is to see if we can use his methods for our own philosophical speculations on time and other topics.

**Texts:**

Bergson, *Matter and Memory*

Bergson, *Duration and Simultaneity*

Bergson, *Two Sources of Morality and Religion*

Deleuze, *Bergsonism*