

# Politics and Critique

In this course, we will study the basic concepts of political philosophy and critical theory. We depart from the conviction that critical theory and political thought always also have to be understood from the social and political context from which they arose. This is more relevant than ever in an era of 'post-truth politics' and 'alternative facts', where it can be difficult to separate conspiracy from critique, and we need to navigate rising political tensions, polarization, and even culture wars.

Therefore, we will explore some of the most important post-war social- and political-philosophical theories and discuss their consequences for, and relation with, the practice of politics. Central themes will include: romanticism, modernity, liberalism, state, citizenship, nationalism, power, protest, ideology, freedom, equality, civil society, discipline, feminism, orientalism, postcolonialism.

Learning about these concepts and themes will allow you to better understand and gain new insight into contemporary societal problems and the political struggles around them. Especially in relation to the philosophical movement called critique, as developed by the Frankfurt School, that has expanded to and intersects with various political movements.

The seminars are not obligatory. The assignments are.

Lectures will not be recorded.

## Learning goals

- Relate the discussed social and political philosophy to its historical and cultural context;
- Apply social and political philosophy to societal issues and structures
- Interpret the practices of philosophical critique
- Contribute verbally to public discussions with philosophical arguments
- Apply the theories discussed in the lectures, tutorials and texts to a scientific discipline (including philosophy)