Course Description
This course is an introduction to some of the various ways that the pursuit of an ethical life, a life lived well in the light of goodness and justice, has been inspired by "post-modernism." For our purposes, that means ethics pursued after the challenges posed to the autonomy of the subject and the absolute power of reason, challenges that become dominant in western thinking since the mid Twentieth Century. In particular, this means thinking about justice and goodness outside of the exclusive concern with rule-based ethics (Deontology and Utilitarianism) that marks the Enlightenment, or High Modernism. This is why we will use the provisional title Post-Modern Ethics, but as we will see this name is ambiguous, for it is not clear to what degree these thinkers are merely a development of Modernism, and it is not clear if there is indeed something coherent about what could come "after" modernism.

Course Structure
I am open to considerable student input on what to include in the course. This is one possible structure that we will discuss at our first meeting.

I. Liberal Post-modernism:
   Ethics of Alterity

II. Radical Post-modernism:
   Communitarian Ethics (Community/ Tradition)
   Critical Ethics (Genealogy/ Ideology)
   Environmental Ethics
   Sacramental Ethics

III. Some Applications
   Poverty/ Environment/ Food/ Consumption/ Sex

Required Texts:
Hibbs: *Aquinas, Ethics, and the Philosophy of Religion*. 978-0253348814
Further Reading:

**Ethics of Alterity**
Luce Irigaray, *An Irigaray Reader, This Sex which is not One* (especially: “When our lips speak together”), *An Ethics of Sexual Difference*;
Julia Kristeva, *The Kristeva Reader*;
Ricoeur: *Oneself as Another*;
Jean-Luc Marion: *The Erotic Phenomenon; The Crossing of the Visible*.

**Communitarian Ethics**
MacIntyre: *After Virtue; Whose Justice? Which Rationality?; Three Rival Versions of Moral Inquiry; Dependent Rational Animals*; Charles Taylor: *A Secular Age*; Sandel: *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*; Michael Waltzer: *Spheres of Justice*.

**Critical Ethics**
Marx: *German Ideology*; Horkheimer and Adorno: *Dialectic of Enlightenment*;
Fredrick Jameson, *Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*;
Marcuse: *One Dimensional Man*;
Georg Lukacs: *History and Class Consciousness*. MIT Press. 978-0262620208

**Sacramental Ethics**

**Narrative Ethics**
Richard Kearney: *Wake of Imagination*;
Treanor, *Emplotting Virtue: A Narrative Approach to Environmental Ethics*.

**Liberation Ethics**
Jon Sobrino: *Jesus the Liberator*; Leonardo Boff: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*;
Leo VIII: *Rerum Novarum*; John Paul II: *Laborem Exercens*.

Reading Schedule:

Class 2. Levinas: *Totality and Infinity*. (Selections)
Class 3. Derrida. *Gift of Death*
Class 4. MacIntyre: *After Virtue*.
Class 5. Marx, *German Ideology* (selections)
Class 6. Gustavo Gutierrez: *A Theology of Liberation*.
Class 7. Kearney. *Anatheism*
Class 8. Hibbs, *Aquinas, Ethics, and the Philosophy of Religion*
**Grading:**
To complete the course:
Students will make one 30 minute presentation to the class in the area of his or choice (ungraded).
Students will turn in one 10-20 page (3200-6500 word) paper at the end of the semester. Details forthcoming.