With the publication of *Truth and Method* in 1960, Hans-Georg Gadamer broadened the scope of hermeneutics beyond that of understanding texts to include the whole field of philosophical inquiry. Drawing heavily on the phenomenological tradition and Heidegger's work in particular, Gadamer develops what he calls a philosophical hermeneutics in which the activity of understanding and interpretation is determined to be encompassing of human experience in general. This is especially relevant for Gadamer in relation to the experience with art, history, and philosophy.

The focus of this course will be a careful reading of Gadamer's *Truth and Method* in which the central problems of a philosophical hermeneutics are discussed: the connection between truth and method, the connection between truth and the experience of art, the nature of historical understanding, the nature of experience, the nature of language and the role of language in human experience.

In addition, we will also read some of Gadamer's more recent essays that concern the relation of philosophy to poetry, the nature of social life in a technological world, and the relation of philosophical hermeneutics to the philosophies of Heidegger and Derrida. A term paper will be required for the course.