RECONSTRUCTION AFTER DERRIDA  
PHIL 635-61  
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Satisfies Contemporary Requirement

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Jacques Derrida is commonly considered to be one of the most important philosophers of the 20th Century. 'Deconstruction', the philosophical movement he pioneered, had a transformative influence on a host of Humanities disciplines, including literary studies, history, art criticism, architecture and beyond. In this course, students will gain a good grounding in Derrida's core ideas, but the principle focus will be on thinkers who, influenced by Derrida, have extended his thought in intriguing, original directions. We will focus in particular on how deconstruction became a transdisciplinary theoretical movement, building a highly original account of how meaning is produced and undermined in multiple contexts. Along the way, we'll consider how feminist theory has made use of deconstructive resources, how Marxist thinkers have confronted Derrida's ideas, and how, unexpectedly, deconstruction and analytic philosophy may well have much in common. Besides Derrida himself, thinkers to be read will include Jean-Luc Nancy, Helene Cixous, Rem Koolhaas, Michael Sprinker, Paul de Man, Barbara Johnson, Samuel Wheeler and Martin Hägglund.

Required Books (available at the bookstore):

