Prof. Jeff Lambert - Topic: Philosophy as Communal Political Action

Philosophy has the reputation of being a reclusive discipline, the worth of which seems purely academic rather than central to our lives. However, thinkers like Baruch Spinoza consider communal philosophical work to be the very thing which provides us the most freedom and understanding in our world. Considering this, our class will not only work to become a philosophical community, but we will also work to engage our community philosophically. To do this we will read varying texts from thinkers like bell hooks, Chantal Mouffe, Cornel West, and others in order to better understand how to foster democratic communication and activity. Most importantly, though, this course will focus heavily on volunteer work and/or community activism. What kind of volunteer work and/or community activism to pursue is largely up to you, but its aim should be to practice the critical theories that we will be reading in class. The goal of this class is to understand the performance of philosophy as synonymous with political action.