

PHIL*4420x6140 MAJOR TEXTS IN PHILOSOPHY[0.50]

Instructor: O. Payrow Shabani

Brief Course Synopsis:

Habermas' Theological Turn

During the past decade the theme of religion has become prominent in Jürgen Habermas' writings. In his earlier writings, along a Weberian line, he saw religious beliefs as a relic of a premodern form of consciousness that should fade away. In his most recent writings, however, religion occupies a legitimate place in the public sphere that should be preserved. The shift seems to be due to the finding that religion can communicate certain meanings that philosophy and science cannot. On the basis of this meaning-giving role of religion Habermas argues for the inclusion of religion in the public sphere. This re-evaluation is significant not only in term of the evolution of Habermas' own wide-ranging system but also in view of the ascending role of religion worldwide. In this course we will track down the history of this change and will examine its normative significance for political theory.

--