The works of these three German intellectuals have influenced the politics, economics, educational practices, and cultural attitudes of countless individuals and even entire nations. Although the work of all three writers has been undergoing a substantial critical reevaluation, its historical importance is indisputable. Indeed, the very fact of the reevaluation in progress is testimony to the continuing cultural legacy of these three intellectual giants. The course will not only try to offer students the chance to get to know the principal writings of these important writers; it will also show how the three belong together as part of an intellectual enterprise centered on the project of what might be called the "historicization" of fields not previously considered subject to historical thinking. All three understand phenomena once thought to be essentially static as in fact dynamic, as changing in time according to demonstrable principles.