Course Description
A selection of readings from Martin Heidegger’s late work, focusing on his discussion of thinking, poetry, gods, works of art and things. Late Heidegger was consumed with the question how cultures in the modern West can gather and preserve meaningful possibilities of existence for the people who live in them. We will focus for some time especially on Heidegger’s reading of the German poet Hölderlin, whom he interprets as the paradigm of a poet who resonates with and preserves meaning in “destitute times”. We will also examine Heidegger’s difficult views concerning technology and its role in our modern world.

Enrollment limited to 20. A written application may be required at the beginning of the semester.

Prerequisites
Late Heidegger’s work is so unprecedented that little can prepare one for it. Background in Kant, German Idealism, or early Heidegger may help some.

Course Requirements
Approximately 50 pages of difficult reading per week. The written requirement consists in a final paper of 15-20 pages, due on January 12th, the final day of Reading Period. I will read and comment on a rough draft of 10-15 pages if it is handed in by Dec. 5th. Attendance at the weekly seminar meetings is also required.

Required Texts

A few additional texts may be made available later in a reader or on the course website.
Tentative Schedule

IntroductionSept. 17
Origin of the Work of ArtSept. 24, Oct. 1
The Question Concerning TechnologyOct. 8, 15
What are poets for?Oct. 22
HölderlinOct. 29, Nov. 5, 12
The ThingNov. 19, 26, Dec. 3
The Last GodDec. 10