

Core Course Title: **Secularism and the Problem of Authority**

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This course sets secularism beyond its traditional association with the non- or anti-religious, and explores it as a family of ideas concerning the scope and limits of authority. Using resources and tools from the humanities and social sciences, and drawing from different historical periods and cultures, we will examine a variety of secular models of authority. These models pertain to political authority; the authority of science and other forms of expertise in education, medicine, law, and industry; and the exercise of authority in moral and aesthetic judgments.