In this course we will examine Habermas' theory of communicative rationality. This theory aims to explain the possibility of providing rational answers not only to factual questions but also to moral and political ones. It articulates a broad notion of rationality that goes beyond the model of instrumental rationality which is predominant in the social sciences. This broader notion provides the basis for a critical theory of contemporary societies. In the course we will work out the philosophical core of the theory and analyze its main consequences in moral, legal and political philosophy. We will analyze Habermas' writings on discourse ethics, deliberative democracy, the role of religion in the public sphere, constitutional patriotism, as well as his cosmopolitan proposal for a new international order. We will also examine recent empirical applications of the theory in different areas of the social sciences.