

## **Robert Nozick: Anarchy, State, and Utopia**

Lecturer: János Kis

### **Course description**

This is a 2-credit reading seminar for doctoral students in Political Science and philosophy. The book is a major work in contemporary political philosophy, written in polemical mood (it attacks John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*) and with an aim to show how a minimal state can be justified and how attempts to justify a state going beyond that minimum can be debunked. Irrespective of its success and failure, this is an important venture; it deserves close reading that this seminar will do.

### **Course requirements and evaluation**

Students are supposed to participate in the discussion and volunteer for presenting one chapter of the book. Performance will be evaluated on the basis of general participation and presentation.

### **Expected learning outcomes**

Introducing into the methods of reasoning in political philosophy, and into major substantive issues such as the nature of basic rights, the justification of coercive power, distributive justice.

Enhancing the capacity to reconstruct and analyze a position in political philosophy.

Enabling critically to present a philosophical text.