This seminar studies the life and work of Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855), the father of existentialist philosophy and theology. Kierkegaard began his authorship by saying:

What I really need is to get clear about what I must do, not what I must know, except insofar as knowledge must precede every act. What matters is to find a purpose . . . to find a truth which is truth for me, to find the idea for which I am willing to live and die.

Our program follows in Kierkegaard’s footsteps, both figuratively and literally, walking along his favorite streets in Copenhagen and asking ourselves, “what is the meaning of it all?”

Kierkegaard found his purpose in fighting against all forms of intellectual imperialism, whether from the scientific worldview, or from the state church. We will try to understand why Kierkegaard thought that such movements deny our humanity, and the alternative vision he presents to us.

The seminar will be led by Prof. Halvorson of the Philosophy Department, and will involve abundant discussion and practice in persuasive writing.

For further information, please see the course brochure in gps.princeton.edu, or send email to Prof. Halvorson (hhalvors@) or Olga Liamkina (olga.liamkina@) at OIP. Additional funding is available.