The Sophists of the fifth and fourth centuries BCE can't seem to shake their bad reputation, a reputation for moral relativism on the one hand, and argumentative legerdemain – sophistry – on the other. Plato's savage lampooning of them, especially in the dialogue called *The Sophist*, seems to have fixed them in ignominy for all time. George Grote in the 19th century, and both Deleuze and Lyotard in the 20th, sought to rehabilitate them, casting them as progressive reformers of a sleepy intellectual tradition, but their efforts have not had lasting impact. This seminar will reassess the question, giving close study to the Sophists' extant writings, from Protagoras to Anonymous Iamblichus.