



Phil. 70 B: Modern Philosophy, Prof. Thomas Leddy

Fall 2022, TR 1030-1145 (Online)

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Philosophy 70B (traditionally called “Modern Philosophy” although that term is a bit outmoded) is a history of Western philosophy class that covers the period from around 1640 through about 1840. This includes the rise of Renaissance Humanism, the Scientific Revolution, Rationalism and Empiricism as well as the Enlightenment period. The course is focused on key theoretical movements of the period including Aesthetics/Philosophy of Art (this is my personal main focus), Natural Science, Political Science, Economics, Ethics, as well as developing ideas of race and gender equality and both religious toleration and religious skepticism. Key figures include Descartes, Hobbes, Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, Vico, Spinoza, Voltaire, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, Kant, Hegel, and selected German Idealists. Attention will also be paid to important neglected figures in philosophy during this period including women philosophers and interactions with non-Western philosophy.

Textbooks

Edwards and Popkin eds., *The Philosophy of the 16th and 17th Centuries* Simon and Schuster – Free Press, 1966. Isbn 9780029254905

Kramnick, Isaac ed., *The Portable Enlightenment Reader* Penguin, 1995. Isbn 9780140245660

Vico, Giambatista. *The New Science of Giambatista Vico*. [selection]
https://www.bard.edu/library/arendt/pdfs/Vico_ScienceGiambttistaVico.pdf

Some other supplementary materials will be required.

This course meets GE Area C2. There are no prerequisites, but Phil 70A (Ancient Philosophy) is recommended. **Highly recommended not only for Philosophy majors but also for any Philosophy graduate student preparing for the comprehensive exams.**