



***Philosophy 70B-01***  
***Modern Philosophy***  
***Dr. Dan C. Williamson***

***Spring '23, TTH 1:30-2:45 Sweeney Hall 241***  
***GE area C2***

Required Texts:

Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, ed; *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.; Hackett Publishing, ISBN 13-978-1-62466-805-0 pbk

Issac Kramnick, ed. ; *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*, Penguin Books, ISBN 978-0-14-024566-0 pbk.

In one of the quintessential moments of the film version of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the "creature" meets Dr. Frankenstein, the creator in less than hospitable circumstances. Therein are wrapped all the themes of the class: Reason, Progress, Knowledge, Ethics, Rights, Enlightenment. Like the period covered politics, economics, ideas, science and ethics are all roiling in an undoubtedly productive stew. That period is roughly the 17<sup>th</sup> Century thru the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Nations are born, including ours. Political regimes die as in France; all of them pushed on by a belief in Reason and Science (otherwise known as the Enlightenment). Several monarchs lose their heads including Charles the 1<sup>st</sup>, the one who precedes the current Charles the Third. Science and progress don't lead to ethical calm, as above, but they do lead to exciting discoveries including Dr. Benjamin Franklin's experiments with lightning and electricity! In the course we cover the leading luminaries of this tumultuous period: Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume and the rightfully esteemed and sublime Konisbergian, Immanuel Kant. Also considered are individuals like Franklin and the French Encyclopediasts. And more if we have enough of that precious commodity: time.