

PHIL 70B section 01, “Modern Philosophy”

Monday, Wednesday: 10:30-11:45

Spring 2020

Prof. James Lindahl

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Philosophy 70B is a history of Western philosophy course that covers the period from the Renaissance through about 1850. This includes the rise of Renaissance Humanism, the Scientific Revolution, Rationalism and Empiricism as well as the Social and Political philosophies of the French Enlightenment. The course is focused on key theoretical movements of the period including Natural Science, Political Science, Economics, Ethics, as well as developing ideas of race and gender equality and religious toleration.

We'll discuss the origins and effectiveness of the Scientific method, why Capitalism mostly works so far, the origins of racism, where Madison and Hamilton got their ideas for the U.S. Constitution, and why you should be mostly nice to your least favorite neighbor.

Required texts:

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

Philosophy 70B satisfies GE Area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters