



Phil 3121 Modern Philosophy

Class Number 1834

Section TY3

T, TH

3:40 – 5:20pm

3305 Boylan

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Modern philosophy arose out of conflict and concluded in “Enlightenment,” but the path was by no means direct, and the development was not unequivocally progressive. In this course, we will trace some of the twists and turns of seventeenth and eighteenth century philosophy by way of close readings of some of the most important texts of this period. We will focus on the works of seven philosophers: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Some of the main questions that we will ask in this course are: What are the sources and limits of human knowledge? How are our beliefs justified? Are there good reasons for believing in God? What is the relationship between our minds and our bodies? What is the basis of moral agency and personal identity? Is freedom compatible with determinism?

