

The History of Western Philosophy Part 2

**FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO 1900**

Jane O'Grady

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**This is a ten-week course in which we will look at some of the topics below. More than one lecture is allocated to each topic.**

1. The Enlightenment: reason triumphant?
2. Spinoza (lecture given by Alexander Douglas, St Andrews)
3. Berkeley: 'to be is to be perceived, or to perceive'. There are only mental substances. But how far does Berkeley's idealism actually deny the physical world?
4. David Hume: reason demoted. But how sceptical was he? How far does he really deny that self and the physical world exist, or that causation involves necessity?
5. Hume's twangling strings of sympathy. Is and ought; natural and artificial virtues.
6. Rousseau's noble savage. Romanticism: the limitations of reason, yearning for the wilderness, storm and stress.
7. Kant's Copernican revolution in metaphysics; concepts and sensibility.
8. Kant's Categorical Imperative and rational democracy of morals.
9. Hegel (lecture given by Sacha Golob, Kings College London)
10. Schopenhauer – endless blind striving; consciousness the mere crust of the molten core of being.

**READING**

**Histories of Philosophy**

*The Story of Philosophy* Bryan Magee

*A New History of Western Philosophy* Anthony Kenny (OUP)

Or *The Oxford History of Western Philosophy* Anthony Kenny (ed) (OUP)

*From Descartes to Wittgenstein: A short history of philosophy* Roger Scruton

**Philosophy as issues and concepts**

*The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy* Simon Blackburn (OUP)

*What does it all mean?* Thomas Nagel (OUP)

**Philosophers – excerpts from**

*A Dictionary of Philosophical Quotations* A. J. Ayer and Jane O'Grady, ed (Blackwell)

*Western Philosophy: an anthology* John Cottingham (ed.) (Blackwell)

## **Enlightenment Philosophy**

*The Portable Enlightenment Reader* Isaac Kramnick, ed  
*The Enlightenment: a sourcebook and reader* Paul Hyland, ed

*Enlightenment Philosophy in a Nutshell* Jane O'Grady (Arcturus)  
*The Enlightenment, an Interpretation* vol 1 Peter Gay  
*Modern Philosophy: the seventeenth and eighteenth century* Richard  
Francks

## **Recommended texts of the philosophers we'll look at**

Spinoza, Baruch

Berkeley, George *Philosophical Works*, ed M.R. Ayers  
(Everyman)

\*Hume, David *Enquiries*

\* *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Both of these books are published in many editions. I would recommend the Oxford University Press editions, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge; the page references to these are what writers on Hume generally use.)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques *A Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*  
*Emile*

Kant, Immanuel *A Critique of Pure Reason*  
*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*  
*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Schopenhauer, Arthur *The World as Will and Representation*  
Essay on free will