

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 the topics below, some of which will occupy more than one session.**

1. The Enlightenment: reason triumphant?
2. Spinoza: lecture given by Dr Alexander Douglas, St Andrews University
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 the 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: 'Although all our knowledge begins with experience, it does not follow that it all arises out of experience.'
8. Kant's Categorical Imperative: only do the action that you could will anyone else in your place to do – after all, what is special about *you*?
9. Hegel (lecture given by Sacha Golob, Kings College London)

**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 *The Ethics* (the Penguin Classics edition, translated  
by Edwin Curley, and introduced by Stuart Hampshire, is good)

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* (trans. Norman Kemp Smith or P Guyer)  
*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*  
*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*