

Unit IV: Modern(ish) Philosophy

Western philosophy really came into its own in the early modern period, starting in the Renaissance during the fifteenth century and continuing into the Enlightenment of the early eighteenth century. Philosophers had a lot of cards on the table and many fascinating ways of shuffling the deck. Religion remained a key influence, but it gradually lost its dominance over thinking. In its place, science rose to the forefront of human thought.

Even so, science left a lot of philosophical problems unsolved, and it created new ones for people to wrestle with. What's more, scientific thinking didn't take hold right away. It had to be worked out gradually and squared with other kinds of ideas - religious and moral ones.

In the process, philosophy emerged as a possible solution to conflicts between science and religion and between science and morality. Philosophy attained a newfound importance, not only for university and church types, but for people in general.

More people were becoming educated, and they needed philosophy to help them deal with the complicated circumstances that faced them. New possibilities for human existence were emerging, and philosophy provided new explanations for these possibilities.

-Taken from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Philosophy*

Date	Topic	Learning Targets	Key Vocabulary
Mon 11/11	Buddhism		
Tue 11/12	Review		
Wed 11/13	Eastern Philosophy Test		
Thu 11/14	Renaissance Humanism	Explain how Renaissance philosophy squared new thinking with old ideas.	Humanism Learned Ignorance Microcosm (macrocosm)
Fri 11/15	Renaissance Humanism	Describe the revival of skepticism	Erasmus and peaceful doubting. Machiavelli and tyrannical doubting. Montaigne and personal doubting.
Mon 11/18	Skepticism and Empiricism	Explain Locke's views of human understanding. Discuss samples of the viewpoints of British Empiricists (Locke, Berkely, Hume)	Tabula Rasa Hume's Fork

Tue 11/19	Skepticism and Empiricism		
Wed 11/20	The Enlightened Philosophes	Explain what the Enlightenment was and who the Philosophes were. Discuss the philosophical contributions of thinkers like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau	Relativism Deism
Thu 11/21	The Enlightened Philosophes		
Fri 11/22	The Enlightenment		
Mon 11/25	The Enlightenment/ Review		
Tue 11/26	Renaissance and Enlightenment Test		
Wed 11/27	Thanksgiving Break		
Thu 11/28	Thanksgiving Break		
Fri 11/29	Thanksgiving Break		
Mon 12/2	Project Update	Give a quick 1-2 minute update on your project so far before we start the German Idealists	