

Georgetown University  
Liberal Studies Program  
Fall, 2018  
LSHV 603-01

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### The Rise of the Modern Spirit

The major religious and epistemological issues of today have their roots in European thought and culture from the Enlightenment to the end of the nineteenth century. Traditional forms of Christianity were repeatedly challenged by the emerging spirits of modernity. The success of the new science in explaining the natural world, together with weariness as the long strife over religious doctrine that followed the Reformation gave rise to a new spirit of Enlightenment, and a renewed confidence in the abilities of human reason. The critical study of history threatened the authority of both scripture and tradition. Skepticism about all claims to supernatural knowledge, reaching a climax in Hume and Kant, seemed to undermine the very core of religious belief. The struggle to reconcile traditional faith with these new forces produced a fascinating variety of issues and new religious ideas. The course reviews the highlights of this struggle and examines several of the significant alternatives in thinking about religion and human knowing that emerged during this period.

Books: All students should purchase the following paperbacks:

James Livingston, Modern Christian Thought, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Vol. I: The Enlightenment and the Nineteenth Century  
Immanuel Kant, Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone  
Søren Kierkegaard, Philosophical Fragments  
Additional Materials (Available on Blackboard)

Requirements: All students are expected to attend class regularly, to read the assignments carefully and critically, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Written work for the course will consist of seminar presentations, six papers of approximately three-four pages in length, and a final paper of approximately ten pages. Grades for the course will be based upon the class presentations, the six written assignments and the final paper, and on participation in class discussions. Students are expected to adhere to the Georgetown University Honor System in all course assignments.

Office Hours: By appointment, whenever convenient to the student

Note: Assignments may be modified as the semester progresses and the class may meet on November 27th in the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather.

- September 4: James Livingston, Modern Christian Thought, “Introduction: Modernity and Christianity,” and Chapters 1 and 2, “The Enlightenment and Modern Christianity” and “The Religion of Reason,” Also, Jean Jacques Rousseau, “The Creed of a Savoyard Priest” and Immanuel Kant “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?”(Blackboard)
- September 11: Livingstone, Chapter 3, “The Breakdown of the Religion of Reason,” Also, G.E. Lessing, “On the Proof of the Spirit and of Power,” “The Testament of John,” and “The Education of the Human Race.” Also, James Boswell, “An Account of My Last Interview with David Hume, Esq.” (Blackboard)
- September 18: David Hume, “Of Miracles” and “On Providence and a Future State” (Blackboard). Also Immanuel Kant, Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone, Book One.
- September 25: Kant, Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone, Books Two, Three, and Four
- October 2: Livingston, Chapter 4, “Christianity and Romanticism: Protestant Thought.” Also, Rudolph Otto, Introduction to On Religion and Friedrich Schleiermacher, On Religion, Second Speech (Blackboard)
- October 9: Livingston, Chapter 5, “Christianity and Speculative Idealism,” Also, Stephen Crites, “The Gospel According to Hegel” (Blackboard)
- October 16: Livingston, Chapter 6, “Romanticism and French Catholic Thought: Traditionalism and Fideism” and Chapter 7, “Romanticism and Anglo-Catholicism: The Oxford Movement.”
- October 23: Livingston, Chapter 9, “The Post-Hegelian Critique of Christianity in Germany.” Also, Ludwig Feuerbach, The Essence of Christianity, pp. 12-32 and Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach” and selection from Introduction to the Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s “Philosophy of Right” in Marx and Engels on Religion, pp. 41-42, and 69-72 (Blackboard)

- October 30: Livingston, pp. 384-397. Also, Neils Thulstrup, "Commentator's Introduction" to Kierkegaard's Philosophical Fragments, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1962), pp. XIV-XCVII (Blackboard). Also, Søren Kierkegaard, Philosophical Fragments, pp. 1-71.  
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- November 6: Kierkegaard, Philosophical Fragments, pp. 72-111. Also, Livingston, Chapter 10, "The Encounter Between Science and Theology: Biblical Criticism and Darwinism" and Darwin's "The Descent of Man," Ch. 21 (Blackboard)
- November 13: Livingston, Chapter 11, "The Ritschlian Theology and Protestant Liberalism." Also, Adolf Von Harnack, "What is Christianity?" pp. 1-74 (Blackboard)
- November 20: Livingston, Chapter 14, "Roman Catholic Thought at the End of the Century: The New Apologetics and Modernism." Also, Loisy, selections from "The Gospel and the Church," in Reardon (ed.), Roman Catholic Modernism, pp. 69-109 (Blackboard)
- November 27: Concluding discussion or additional evening in the event of a class cancellation.

### **Additional Notes:**

#### **Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu).

#### **Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity**

During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings. The university recently has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

#### **Georgetown Honor System**

All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor->

code , and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

*In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.*

### **Plagiarism**

In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail. If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student may receive a grade of F for the course.

### **Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances**

The following is university policy: Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

**Library Reserves:** access through GU email. Click the link below!

Want to place an item on reserve? Physical or electronic? Book or streaming media? Check to see if Georgetown University Library owns the item(s) [here](#) . Secondly, complete the [appropriate reserve request form](#) .

### **Title IX at Georgetown**

<https://titleix.georgetown.edu/>

#### ***Sexual Misconduct***

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) prohibits discrimination based on sex in any educational programs, which includes sexual harassment or any acts of sexual misconduct. Title IX requires the University, upon becoming aware of any incident of sexual harassment and misconduct to respond appropriately to protect and maintain the safety of the University community, including students, faculty, and staff. Georgetown University prohibits sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. Discrimination based on sex, including sexual misconduct and discrimination based on pregnancy or parenting status, subverts the University's mission and threatens permanent damage to the educational experience, careers, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Please know that as a faculty member I am committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including relationship violence and sexual assault. However, University policy also requires me to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the University’s response to sexual misconduct. Georgetown has a number of fully

confidential professional resources who can provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. These resources include:

**Jen Schweer, MA, LPC**

Associate Director of Health Education Services  
for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention  
(202) 687-0323  
[jls242@georgetown.edu](mailto:jls242@georgetown.edu)

**Erica Shirley**

Trauma Specialist  
Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)  
(202) 687-6985  
[els54@georgetown.edu](mailto:els54@georgetown.edu)

More information about campus resources and reporting sexual misconduct can be found at:  
<https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/get-help>.

***Pregnancy Adjustments and Accommodations***

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant and parenting students. Students may request adjustments based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication. Specific adjustments will be handled on a case by case basis and will depend on medical need and academic requirements. Students seeking a pregnancy adjustment or accommodation should follow the process laid out at: <https://titleix.georgetown.edu/student-pregnancy> .