

History of Western Philosophy IB | PIU11032

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	26 (22 lectures, 4 tutorials)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	James Levine & Richard Teague
Contact Email	jlevine@tcd.ie

Module Outline:

The 17th and 18th centuries mark the beginning of what is called “modern” (western) philosophy. Stimulated by the scientific revolution, western philosophers—including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, (Trinity’s own) Berkeley, and Hume—addressed issues regarding the ultimate nature of the universe, our knowledge of it, and what view of God it is reasonable to accept.

The module is divided into two components. The first will focus on the so-called “rationalists”—Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. The second will focus on the so-called “empiricists”—Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.

Assessment:

1 Essay (at the end of module) 50%: 1 Examination (end of module) 50%

Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module, and readings will be made available on Blackboard, but the focus will be on primary readings from the philosophers mentioned above.

We will begin with Descartes’s *Meditations*, then turn to Spinoza’s *Ethics*.