

Major Philosophers of the Modern Era

A rough guide to philosophical influence is given by the use of capitals to indicate a philosopher of the highest originality and underlining to mark a philosopher of outstanding importance. Several are included who achieved greater influence outside of philosophy (e.g. Newton, Voltaire).

An asterisk indicates that the philosopher will be read in this course.*

Francis Bacon

Thomas Hobbes

Pierre Gassendi

*RENE DESCARTES (French rationalist; independent means; wrote in Latin and French; 1596-1650): *Meditations on First Philosophy, Discourse on Method, Principles of Philosophy*; also famed as mathematician and scientist

Antoine Arnauld

Blaise Pascal

*JOHN LOCKE (1632-1704) (The first great British empiricist; liberal Puritan; heavily involved in British political life; wrote in English; 1632-1704; *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Two Treatises on Government*)

BARUCH (BENEDICT) SPINOZA (1633-1677) Nicolas Malebranche

Isaac Newton

G. W. LEIBNIZ (1646-1716) Giovanni Vico

Christian Wolff

*GEORGE BERKELEY (Irish empiricist; cleric; wrote in English and Latin; 1685-1753): *Principles of Human Knowledge, Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, A New Theory of Vision, de Motu*

Baron de Montesquieu

Voltaire

Thomas Reid

*DAVID HUME (Scottish empiricist; librarian, diplomat; wrote in English; 1711-1776): *A Treatise of Human Nature; Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and the Principles of Morals; Dialogues on Natural Religion*; also achieved fame as historian and essayist

Denis Diderot Adam Smith Etienne Condillac

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU (1712-1778)

*IMMANUEL KANT (German transcendental idealist; professor at Königsberg; wrote in German and Latin; 1724-1804): *Critique of Pure Reason; Critique of Practical Reason; Critique of Judgment*

J.G. Fichte

F.W.J. Schelling

G. W. F. HEGEL (1770-1831)

John Stuart Mill // Karl Marx // Soren Kierkegaard // Franz Brentano // Gottlob Frege

Charles S. Peirce // William James // Friedrich Nietzsche // Edmund Husserl

Henri Bergson // John Dewey // Bertrand Russell // G.E. Moore // Martin Heidegger

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN (Austrian logical philosopher; professor; wrote in German; 1889-1951): *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus; Philosophical Investigations*

Rudolf Carnap // Jean-Paul Sartre // Maurice Merleau-Ponty // Willard Quine