

COURSE DETAIL

PROBLEMS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

University College London

Program(s)

University College London

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

166

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

PROBLEMS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

UCEAP Transcript Title

17C&18C EUROPE PHIL

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

In 17th and 18th century Europe, philosophers turned old ways of thinking upside down. “Man” went from being the center of the medieval cosmos to living nowhere special. Philosophers replaced the old Aristotelian world of nested spheres with an austere vision of the universe as an indifferent machine without a center. They stripped value and purpose from nature, along with color and other qualitative properties, reinterpreting many of these phenomena as mere human projections. Claims to knowledge and authority became fragile and suspect. Traditional religious beliefs came under increasing scrutiny as philosophers tried to reconcile belief in the existence of God with the manifest fact of evil in the world. Arguments for the education and equality of women picked up steam. Through these and other developments, a recognizably modern worldview was born. In this course, students will trace one or two philosophical problems—such as problems about the nature of the material world, the mind, skepticism, knowledge, God, human equality, and the problem of evil—through this period, with an eye towards the history of these problem *and* their lasting philosophical significance.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

PHIL0195

Host Institution Course Title

PROBLEMS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/modules/PHIL0195>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Philosophy

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)