



PHIL 4120

MODERN PHILOSOPHY

**FALL
2016**

Featuring: Contact:

PROFESSOR
KRISTOPHER
PHILLIPS

108F GENERAL
CLASSROOMS

OFFICE:
435.586.7912
CELL:
616.364.8045

KRISTOPHERPHILLIPS@SUU.EDU

The traditional narrative surrounding the development of philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries revolves around a dispute between so-called “rationalists” (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz) and “empiricists” (Locke, Berkeley, Hume), culminating in the great unifier (Kant). There are any number of reasons to be unhappy with the traditional narrative. It oversimplifies the complex interactions and influences important thinkers had on one another; ignores the contributions women made to the intellectual scene; forces us to study systematic thinkers in an incomplete way; and offers at best a shallow understanding of tremendously rich issues.

In this class we will focus on three major figures from the “modern” era: Rene Descartes, Margaret Cavendish, and David Hume. We will devote substantial time to developing and understanding their philosophical systems and the interconnections between these thinkers.