

Spring 2010

Prof. [Thomas Pfau](#)

“Secularization & Modernity, 1750-1914”

www.duke.edu/web/secmod

SYLLABUS

Wednesday 1/13 – INTRODUCTION: VARIETIES OF THE “SECULAR” – Peter Berger, *The Sacred Canopy*, 105-25 and David Martin, from *On Secularization*, 123-40.

Friday 1/15 – INTRODUCTION: VERSIONS OF “MODERNITY” – Louis Dupré, *Passage to Modernity*, 65-92 and Charles Taylor, from *Modern Social Imaginaries*, 3-22 & 49-67.

Monday 1/18 – David Hume, from [Treatise of Human Nature](#) (1739-1740)

Wednesday 1/20 – Hume, continued

Friday 1/22 – Discussion: Hume and Modern Skepticism

Monday 1/25 – G. E. Lessing, [Nathan the Wise](#) (1779) & “[On the proof of the spirit and of power.](#)”

Wednesday 1/27 – Lessing, continued & Jacob Katz, from *Out of the Ghetto* (1998)

Friday 1/29 – Discussion: Toleration and Enlightenment Secularity

Monday 2/01 – Moses Mendelssohn, from *Jerusalem: on Religious Power and Judaism* (1783)

Wednesday 2/03 – Mendelssohn, continued & Michael A. Meyers, from *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 3 (1998)

Friday 2/05 – Discussion: Mendelssohn and the Paradoxes of Jewish Enlightenment

Monday 2/08 – Mendelssohn & Meyers, continued

Wednesday 2/10 – Johann W. von Goethe, from *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* (1796), Book 6 & Charles Taylor, from *Sources of the Self*, 368-81.

Friday 2/12 – Discussion: Femininity, Sentiment, and the Limits of Religious Inwardness

Monday 2/15 – Jane Austen, from *Mansfield Park* (1814)

Wednesday 2/17 – Austen, continued & Colin Jager, from *The Book of God: Secularization & Design in the Romantic Era* (2006)

Friday 2/19 – Discussion: The modern novel and the secular imagination

Monday 2/22 – Auguste Comte, “Introduction to the Positive Philosophy” (1825/26)

Wednesday 2/24 – Comte, continued & Andrew Wernick, *Auguste Comte and the Religion of Humanity*

Friday 2/26 – Discussion: Comte and Positivism

Monday 3/01 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from *On the Constitution of Church and State* (1830)

Wednesday 3/03 – Coleridge, continued & Pamela Edwards, from *The Statesman’s Science: History, Nature, and Law in the Political Thought of Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (2004)

Friday 3/05 – Discussion: Coleridge and the Discontents of the Modern State

Monday 3/08 – Spring Recess

Wednesday 3/10 – Spring Recess

Friday 3/12 – Spring Recess

Monday 3/15 – John Henry Newman, “The Tamworth Reading Room” (1841)

Wednesday 3/17 – Newman, continued & Robert Pattison, from *The Great Dissent: John Henry Newman and the Liberal Heresy* (1991)

Friday 3/19 – Discussion: Newman’s Critique of Modern Secular Liberalism

Monday 3/22 – Modern Evolution and the Crisis of Protestantism: Robert Chambers, from *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* (1844), 191-235 & 277-323

Wednesday 3/24 – Chambers, continued & James Secord, from *Victorian Sensation*, 222-96.

Friday 3/26 – Discussion: Science and Religion in Early Victorian England (Chambers and Secord, continued)

Monday 3/29 – Matthew Arnold, from *Culture & Anarchy* (1869), “Doing as One Likes”, “Hebraism and Hellenism” & “Porro Unum est Necessarium”

Wednesday 3/31 – Arnold, continued; review of Arnold’s *Culture & Anarchy* by Henry Sidgwick (1867), and Vincent Pecora, from *Secularization and Cultural Criticism*, 131-56.

Friday 4/02 – Discussion: Arnold’s Critique of Modern Morality

Monday 4/05 – George Eliot, “Review of Mackay’s *The Progress of the Intellect*” (1851); “W. R. Greg’s *The Creed of Christendom*” (1851) & “The Natural History of German Life” (1856).

Wednesday 4/07 – Fyodor Dostoevsky, from *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879), Chapters: “Rebellion” & “The Grand Inquisitor”

Friday 4/09 – Discussion: Modernism, Secularism, and the Aesthetics of Despair

Monday 4/12 – Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Beyond Good & Evil* (1886)

Wednesday 4/14 – Nietzsche, continued & Alexander Nehamas, from *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*, 42-73.

Friday 4/16 – Discussion: Nietzsche, Rhetoric, and Immoralism

Monday 4/19 – Max Weber, from *The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism* (1905)

Wednesday 4/21 – Weber, continued & John Milbank, from *Theology and Social Theory* (2006)

Friday 4/23 – Discussion: Secularization and the Rise of Modern Sociology

Monday 4/26 – Thomas Mann, *Gladius Dei* (1902) & Paul Bishop, “The Intellectual World of Thomas Mann” (2002)

Wednesday 4/28 – Thomas Mann, *Blood of the Wälsungs* (1906/1921/1958) & Hermann Kurzke, from *Thomas Mann: Life as a Work of Art* (1996)

Requirements:

- Regular Attendance (2 absences free; any additional absence will result in a ½ point drop of the final course grade)
- Active participation in Recitation/Discussion meetings

- 1 short-paper (5-6 pp.) **due by January 25th**
- An annotated bibliography of approx. 8 titles (**due March 5th**), comprising both primary and some secondary texts (samples will be posted on the course website shortly); that bibliography will become the basis for a ...
- medium-length research paper (~12-15 pp.), a draft of which will be **due April 5th**. On the basis of instructor feedback, this draft is to be revised and resubmitted. The final version of your research paper will be **due on April 28th** in class.
- Grade breakdown: short paper: 15%; annotated bibliography: 25%; research paper: 40% (the grade on the draft of your research paper will be superseded by the grade assigned to the final version); attendance & participation: 20%.

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the research component, please visit [Assignments](#)
