



The Promise of Enlightenment

Start date	15 April 2016	End date	17 April 2016
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr. Claire Grant	Course code	1516NRX083

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
For further information on this course, please contact clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Claire Grant is a graduate of Queens' College Cambridge, where she was also a Munro Fellow. She has taught undergraduate students in Tripos at the University since 1994 and continues to teach students in Philosophy and HSPS today. Claire's areas of teaching and research interest lie predominantly in analytic moral, political and social philosophy. Claire has given invited talks at numerous Universities, for instance at Oxford, Berkeley, Delhi and Melbourne. She has taught several courses for the ICE and also tutors for dissertations.

Course programme already provided

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The Promise of Enlightenment
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Kant
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Hegel
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Marx
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Heidegger
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Arendt
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Adorno and Horkheimer
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

To understand the promise of Enlightenment and its critical reception
To understand the Enlightenment debate in the work of key philosophers

Content:

What is the Enlightenment? What was its promise and has it failed? The Enlightenment ushered in a modern era of belief in progress through reason and science. This course is an opportunity to participate in the great philosophical debate over the promise of Enlightenment.

We commence with Kant, who set the terms of the debate in 1784. Kant depicted the promise of enlightenment as that of thinking on one's own authority, whereby human reason would lead to freedom and progress. We then consider the legacy of this promise in the work of Kant's successors, Hegel, Marx, Heidegger, Arendt, Adorno and Horkheimer. Central questions include: what is 'thinking for oneself'? What are the dangers of faith in reason? Can we rescue the Enlightenment?

Presentation of the course:

Lectures and Class Discussions

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Understand aspects of the Enlightenment debate in the work of major philosophers
Adopt a critical approach to key contributions to that debate

Reading and resources list

No prior reading is required but students who would like to look at something in advance of the course can find Kant's classic essay 'What is Enlightenment?' on the internet.

Website addresses

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 06 April 2016