

"Modern Critiques of Religion"

Professor Dickey

This section of History 600 deals with the emergence among some famous 17th, 18th and 19th century thinkers of ways of thinking about religion that are today considered to be "modern". We shall read Spinoza on Judaism; Fontenelle, Bayle and Hume on pagan religion; and Lessing and Baur on early Christianity. We shall also examine a key theme in the modern critique of religion; namely, how do modern scholars discuss the issue of religious miracles.

About 15 pages of writing are expected from each student.