

# FINAL EXAM

## Renaissance and Enlightenment Philosophy

Instructor: *Dr. Greg L. Bahnsen*  
Christ College

{Note: You are welcome to use any course materials you wish in completing your exam.}

Write a brief essay (about a page, no more than two) for each of the following, making sure your answers reflect the lecture materials and any relevant reading assignments:

1. How did the end of the Middle Ages “plant the seeds of the Renaissance”?
2. Trace the progress of dichotomized thinking in the Renaissance through the Enlightenment.
3. Characterize the period of the Renaissance and some of its key factors.
4. Contrast the Renaissance to the Reformation regarding man, culture, politics and science.
5. Contrast the “enlightenment” advocated by Calvin to the Enlightenment outlook of Hobbes.
6. Why is Descartes credited with being the father of modern philosophy? What was distinctive about his approach?
7. How did Descartes prove his own existence, God’s and an external, material world? Offer a critique.
8. Contrast the direction of Descartes’ arguments to that of Aquinas and that of Calvin.
9. What problem could Descartes not resolve? What was his answer? How did the parallelists deal with it?
10. Explain how Spinoza reached pantheistic conclusions.
11. Explain how Leibniz could as easily reach atomistic conclusions.
12. Offer a critique of either Spinoza or Leibniz.
13. What are the essential tenets of “rationalism”? of “empiricism”?
14. What did Locke mean by “the historical plain method”? What conclusions did he reach by means of it?
15. Offer a credible case for Berkeley’s view that material objects do not exist.
16. How did Hume extend Berkeley’s critique of Locke into utter skepticism?
17. Trace the theological and apologetical positions advanced in Deism and (more broadly) the Enlightenment.
18. “The Enlightenment ended with a loss of optimism regarding reason.” Explain.

19. Offer a synopsis of the Enlightenment period, and indicate the different options philosophers have for responding to Hume's skepticism.
20. Explain how Kant brought a "Copernican Revolution" to philosophy.
21. Kant claimed to "save science and make room for faith." How did he think to accomplish these two ends, and what critique would you offer?
22. Summarize the key points in the ethical philosophy of Kant.
23. Summarize the "romantic" outlook of Rousseau and offer a critique of it.
24. Trace the development of "contract" views of civil government from Hobbes through Locke and Rousseau.
25. Contrast the political views of Hobbes to those of the Reformation tradition as discussed by Schaeffer.