PHIL 70B, Section: 01
“Early Modern Philosophy”

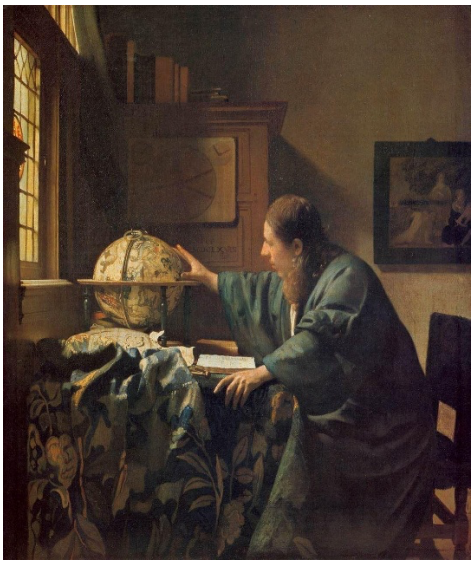
Spring 2027

GE Area 3B

Michael Jordan

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MW 1030-1145 (in person)



Modern Philosophy: Explore the Age of Reason and the Roots of Modern Thought

This course delves into the transformative ideas of 16th to 18th-century Western philosophy, a period marked by groundbreaking developments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and political philosophy. Through primary texts from thinkers like Descartes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, and Kant, we’ll examine how these philosophers tackled enduring questions: *What can we know, and how can we know it? What is the nature of reality? What constitutes a just society? What rights do individuals possess in relation to the state?* Students will explore the foundations of empiricism and rationalism, assess the evolving concepts of knowledge, authority, and justice, and trace how these early modern ideas continue to influence contemporary philosophy. Join us for a journey into the questions that shaped modern thought, offering a deeper understanding of the debates that continue to resonate in philosophy today.

Johannes Vermeer, *The Astronomer* (1668)