Reader Abstract: This reader explores some of the dominant figures in the English Enlightenment tradition and how their ideas formed an ongoing philosophical conversation that still influences our thoughts in the western world. Each session focuses on a different thinker starting with Thomas Hobbes, then John Locke, then Joseph Butler and then ends on the poet Alexander Pope.

Session 1: Psychology, Natural Right, and the Commonwealth in Hobbes (38 pages)

- Introduction, pages 8-10.
- “Of the Difference of Manners,” pages 74-81.
- “Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as concerning their Felicity and Misery,” pages 94-98.

Session Abstract: This first session lays the ground work with Thomas Hobbes’ foundational text *Leviathan*. Here participants will engage his thoughts on human nature, morality and government.

Session 2: The State of Nature and Political Society in Locke (37 pages)

- Preface

Session Abstract: This session centers around John Locke’s work and his ideas regarding natural law, government and human nature. Here participants will be able to see how Locke’s work contrasts and overlaps with Hobbe's *Leviathan*.

Session 3: Butler’s Moral Psychology and Response to Hobbes & Locke (37 pages)

- Preface, pages i-xxii.
- Sermon V – Upon the Love of Our Neighbor, pages 81-100.
Session Abstract: For this third session participants will draw from the works of Joseph Butler. In this session Butler responds to Hobbes and Locke’s idea on morality and human nature.

Session 4: Pope on Providence and Right (25 pages)


Session Abstract: This final session closes the program with poems from Alexander Pope.