

## **JSP 490/GER 430. Spinoza: Secularization in Modern Jewish Thought**

What makes Jewish Thought since the 17th century so stunningly modern and “post-contemporary” is the critical way in which its proponents address secularization as the hidden, yet central problem of modernity. Readings include texts by Spinoza, Mendelssohn, and Heine, which become legible as critical negotiations of a project of secularization that no longer imposes assimilation as imperative but celebrates cultural difference and particularity as affirmation of an emancipatory vision of modernity that no longer hinges on the marginalization of Jews but recognizes their traditions as signal contributions.

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| 4 Jan  | Spinoza and current concepts and theories of secularization   |
| 11 Jan | Heine, “City of Lucca”  |
| 18 Jan | Heine, “Rabbi of Bacherach”                                   |
| 25 Jan | Heine, “Lorelei” and “Apollogott”                             |
| 1 Feb  | Heine, “On the History of Religion and Philosophy in Germany” |
| 8 Feb  | Spinoza, TTP, Preface, chapters 1-4                           |
| 15 Feb | Reading Week  |
| 22 Feb | Spinoza, TTP, chapters 5-7                                    |
| 1 Mar  | Spinoza, TTP, chapters 12-15                                  |
| 8 Mar  | Spinoza, TTP, chapters 16-20                                  |
| 15 Mar | Mendelssohn, Jerusalem part 1 and “What is Enlightenment?”    |
| 22 Mar | Mendelssohn, Jerusalem part 2                                 |
| 29 Mar | Final Discussion  |