

SPINOZA AND HIS CRITICS: NIHILISM, PANTHEISM, AND THE CRISIS OF REASON

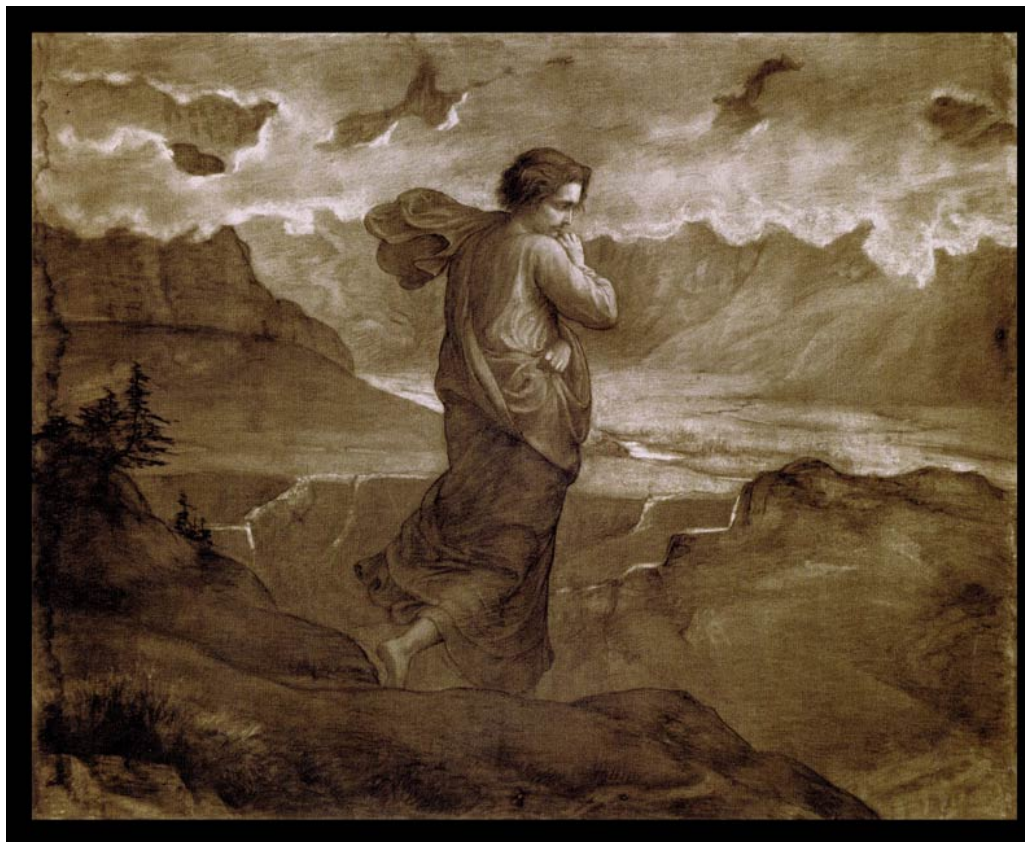
This course will study the great debate following Spinoza's (in)famous proof that God and Nature are the same. In the space of a few years it sparked a crisis of meaning in Europe that overturned traditional beliefs in free will, objective morality, and religion. The word "nihilism" was coined at that time—and it inspired later movements such as existentialism and romanticism, in addition to prominent philosophers of the 19th century such as Hegel, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard. Even Kant weighed in on the debate. We will see how today's questions about whether life has any objective meaning sprang out of this crisis. This seminar is intended for rising juniors and seniors with an interest in learning one of the greatest philosophical debates of all time.

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Wednesdays, 3:30 - 6:00 PM

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