

*PHILOSOP 9*

*Race and Philosophy in the 18th Century*

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Among the many innovations credited to the thinkers of the long 18th century, perhaps the most infamous is the invention of the concept of race. In this seminar we will look closely at the 18th century discussion of this concept by both prominent thinkers (including Hume and Kant) and less well-known but influential figures (such as C. Meiners and J. F. Blumenbach), and we will consider a variety of issues including the monogenesis/polygenesis debate and the rise of "scientific" racism. In addition, we will consider the work of an important racialized thinker in the period, the African-born German philosopher Anton Wilhelm Amo.