



### **Topic 1.**

“[T]he supreme mystery of despotism, its prop and stay, is to keep men in a state of deception, with the specious title of religion to cloak the fear by which they must be held in check, so that they will fight for their servitude as if for their salvation, and count it no shame, but the highest honour, to spend their blood and their lives for the glorification of one man.”

—Baruch Spinoza, *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus* (preface), 1677.

### **Topic 2.**

“It's important to understand that while honor is an entitlement to respect—and shame comes when you lose that title—a person of honor cares first of all not about being respected but about being *worthy* of respect.”

—Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen* (chapter 1: *The Duel Dies*), 2010.

### **Topic 3.**

“And so I thought that since the sciences contained in books—at least those based upon merely probable reasoning and not on demonstrations—are put together and amassed little by little from the opinions of many different persons, they never get as close to the truth as the simple reasonings that a man of good sense can naturally make concerning whatever he comes across.”

—René Descartes, *Discourse on the Method* (part 2), 1637.

### **Topic 4.**

“Needing to have reality confirmed and experience enhanced by photographs is an aesthetic consumerism to which everyone is now addicted. Industrial societies turn their citizens into image-junkies; it is the most irresistible form of mental pollution.”

—Susan Sontag, *On Photography* (chapter 1: *In Plato's Cave*), 1973.