

6-26-16 Powerpoint

## **An Overview of the Past Few Centuries**

The Age of Tradition

The Enlightenment

Romanticism

The Hermeneutics of Suspicion (Marx, Nietzsche, Freud)

Postmodernism

### **Themes of the Enlightenment**

1. Reliance on Reason (Math and/or Science)
2. Clear and Unambiguous Language
3. Human Rights (Democracy or Enlightened Monarchy)
4. The Grand Narrative of Progress
5. Cultural superiority/assimilation
6. "Color blindness."

## **The Enlightenment and Religion**

Deism:--“Natural Religion” based solely on reason; no use for the Bible

( “Cliff Notes” definition of Deism is inadequate.)

Rational Christianity

Channing & Ballou

Humanist Manifesto

## **Between The Enlightenment and Postmodernism**

Romanticism (Emerson)

Marx, Nietzsche, Freud

World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War

Post-Newtonian physics

Thomas Kuhn & Paradigms in Science

The End of Colonialism

## **Post-Modern Themes**

**Skepticism about Reason and Science**

**Moral Relativity and Tolerance**

**Incommensurability**

**Ambiguity of Language (Deconstruction)**

**Distrust of Grand Narratives**

**Revealing the Dark Side of the Enlightenment**

**Within the UU's:  
Tension or Breaking Point**

**Diversity and/or Reason**

## **Solutions**

**More and Better Reason and Science**

**Fallibilism**

**Search for Good Reasons (not Conclusive Proof)**

**Avoid false dichotomies or**

**“Don’t Throw Out the Baby (Rationality)**

**with the Bathwater (Bad Things Done in the Name of Rationality)”**

**Pragmatism & Process Thought**