

Reading Guide

The Scientific Revolution: *Science & Society from the Renaissance to the Early Enlightenment*

Please read the following books in preparation for the Summer Institute:

James R. Jacob, *The Scientific Revolution: Aspirations and Achievements, 1500-1700*

Betty Jo Teeter Dobbs and Margaret Jacob, *Newton and the Culture of Newtonianism*

They are intended for non-specialists and should not present many difficulties. Do not, however, get bogged down in details. Try to keep in mind the big picture. To help you do that, here are some big ideas to be looking for as you read:

1. How were the ideas of the scientific revolution related to the ideas of the Medieval period and Renaissance Humanism? For example, were the new ideas antagonistic, a natural outgrowth, complementary, or supplementary to past ideas? Or a combination?

2. What was the key contribution to the Scientific Revolution of each of the following:

Copernicus

Kepler

Galileo

Descartes

Newton

3. How was the Scientific Revolution different in Roman Catholic and Protestant contexts?

4. How were the ideas of the Scientific Revolution spread across space (from country to country) and across time (from one generation to the next)?

5. How did ideas about science, religion, and society come together to form “the Age of the Enlightenment” in 18th century Europe?