Instructor: Dr. Steve Naragon, Office: Academic Center, #233 (Phone — office: 982-5041; home: 982-6033)

Online syllabus: http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/318-F16/Welcome.html

Required Texts:

- Selections from the works of Bacon, Hobbes, Spinoza, and Kant.

Course Objective. We will read philosophers from the 16th through the 18th centuries (including Hobbes, Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant), with an emphasis on their epistemology and metaphysics. A lot happened during these centuries, not least of which were the birth of modern science, of the modern state, and of the modern self. As might be expected, philosophers were always on hand to serve as midwives. By the end of all your ruminations in this course, you should be able to mark improvement in the following areas: (1) your understanding of the nature and history of Western philosophy; (2) your skills for critically evaluating arguments and beliefs; (3) your ability to read primary texts; (4) your sense of the historiography of philosophy; and (5) your ability to reflect on certain questions that confront us all: How can I know something to be true? What is the good life and how is it attained? What is it to be human?

Some virtues to bring with you into the philosophy classroom: humility when comparing your beliefs with those of others; patience for listening closely to views that seem foolish or misguided to you; courage to advance in the face of adversity what seems to be the correct view; endurance for following arguments to their conclusion; humor for those moments when you feel the utter futility of your efforts.

Requirements and Grading

Readings. Read the assignments closely prior to class, and always bring the text. Class discussions and your success in this class depend upon this. If you are not willing to commit yourself to this, then it would be best to withdraw from the course. We will be using two different kinds of text. The book by Matson is a light, secondary discussion of the philosophers and their ideas. You should read this as background. The bulk of your time will be spent reading the primary materials, written by the philosophers themselves. These texts will be our focus in class.

Attendance and Participation. A course on philosophy is by its nature aimed at self-examination and discussion; consequently, taking the class requires being there. Being there is the first step, however, but it’s not enough. Uninformed talk is worse than silence, so you need to arrive to class having worked through and reflected on the readings for the day. Consequently, part of your participation grade will be based on brief, one-paragraph reflections on some passage in the reading (it can be any passage, so long as it doesn’t overlap with the topic of the daily essay. These daily paragraphs are due by 9:00 AM (submitted through Canvas), and late is the same as never; they will be graded following a 5 pt. rubric (see below).

Short Essays. An essay topic is provided for nearly every day, and the essays are due before class. You will need to complete twelve of these for full credit (that works out to a bit less than one essay per week). This flexibility allows you to better fit the requirements of this class to your particular interests and to your overall workload for the semester. These 1-2 page essays should be submitted through Canvas will be graded following a 5 pt. rubric (below). See the online syllabus for more information.

Exams. There will be three in-class short-essay exams.
Grading. The three exams are worth 15% each of the course grade (3 x 15% = 45%), the set of essays are worth 45%, and the set of daily paragraphs is worth 10%.

Daily Paragraph Rubric (5 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length (1 pt)</th>
<th>Discussion (3 pts)</th>
<th>Mechanics (1 pt)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 = At least 80 words. 0 = Less than 80 words.</td>
<td>3 = Interesting passage, good discussion, helpful questions or worries are raised. 2 = Passage chosen is unremarkable or discussion lacks engagement with the passage.</td>
<td>1 = No misspelling or punctuation errors. 0 = Something needs to be fixed.</td>
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Short Essay Rubric (5 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length (1 pt)</th>
<th>Discussion (3 pts)</th>
<th>Mechanics (1 pt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 = At least 500 words. 0 = Less than 500 words.</td>
<td>3 = Good grasp of the text/ideas and focused discussion of the topic. 2 = Some unclarity or lack of focus.</td>
<td>1 = Good use of topic sentences; no errors of spelling, punctuation, or grammar. 0 = Two or more errors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Schedule of Discussion and Reading

**Wed, Aug 31**
Inventing Modernity

**Fri, Sep 2**
Descartes: Seeking a Foundation
Reading: René Descartes, “Meditation One”

**Mon, Sep 5**
Descartes: Reason vs the Senses
Reading: René Descartes, “Meditation Two”

**Wed, Sep 7**
Descartes: God and Human Error
Reading: René Descartes, “Meditation Three and Four”

**Fri, Sep 9**
Descartes: God and Corporeal Nature
Reading: René Descartes, “Meditation Five”

**Mon, Sep 12**
Descartes: Reclaiming the World
Reading: René Descartes, “Meditation Six”

**Wed, Sep 14**
Spinoza: God and Substance
Reading: Spinoza, Ethics, Bk. I

**Fri, Sep 16**
Spinoza: Mind and Body
Reading: Spinoza, Ethics, Bk. II

**Mon, Sep 19**
Spinoza: Knowledge
Reading: Spinoza, Ethics, Bk. II

**Wed, Sep 21**
Leibniz: Truth and Reason
Reading: Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics

**Fri, Sep 23**
Leibniz: Monads
Reading: Leibniz, Monadology

**Mon, Sep 26**
Leibniz: God and Space
Reading:

**Wed, Sep 28**
Leibniz: Catch-Up and Review

**Exam #1**

**Fri, Sep 30**
Hobbes to Hume

**Mon, Oct 3**
Bacon: The New Science
Reading: Bacon, “Aphorisms” from the Novum Organum (1620) [text]

**Wed, Oct 5**
Hobbes: Science and Nature
Reading: Hobbes, Leviathan, introduction and Pt. 1, chs. 1 & 6 [text]

**Fri, Oct 7**
Hobbes: Psychology and Politics
Reading: Hobbes, Leviathan, Pt. I, chs. 11, 13-14; Pt. II, chs. 17-18, 21 [text]

**Mon, Oct 10**
Locke: Innate Ideas

**Wed, Oct 12**
Locke: Ideas and Qualities
Fri, Oct 14  
Locke: Simple and Complex Ideas  
   Reading: Locke, Essay, Bk. II, chs. 10-14.

Mon, Oct 17 — Fall Break

Wed, Oct 19  
Locke: Words and Things  
   Reading: Locke, Essay, Bk. III, chs. 1-3.

Fri, Oct 21  
Locke: Knowledge ...  
   Reading: Locke, Essay, Bk. IV, chs. 9-10.

Mon, Oct 24  
Locke: ... and its Limits  
   Reading: Locke, Essay, Bk. IV, ch. 11.

Wed, Oct 26  
Berkeley: Immaterialism  
   Reading: George Berkeley, Three Dialogues, “First Dialogue”

Fri, Oct 28  
Berkeley: God  
   Reading: Berkeley, Three Dialogues, “Second Dialogue”

Mon, Oct 31  
Berkeley: Science  
   Reading: Berkeley, Three Dialogues, “Third Dialogue”

Wed, Nov 2  
Hume: Ideas and Impressions  
   Reading: David Hume, Inquiry, §2-3

Fri, Nov 4  
Hume: Relations of Ideas and Matters of Fact  
   Reading: David Hume, Inquiry, §4

Mon, Nov 7  
Hume: Naturalism  
   Reading: David Hume, Inquiry, §5

Wed, Nov 9  
Hume: Necessary Connection  
   Reading: David Hume, Inquiry, §7

Fri, Nov 11  
Hume: Miracles  
   Reading: David Hume, Inquiry, §10

 Exam #2  
Mon, Nov 14

Kant

Wed, Nov 16  
Kant: On Enlightenment  
   Reading: Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (1784) (selection online)

Fri, Nov 18  
Kant: The Revolutionary  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Preface A and B, Introduction.

Mon, Nov 21  
Kant: On Space and Time  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Transcendental Aesthetic (B33-58).

Thanksgiving

Mon, Nov 28  
Kant: On Concepts  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (B74-76, 89-95, 102-9)

Wed, Nov 30  
Kant: The Transcendental Deduction  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (B116-69)

Fri, Dec 2  
Kant: The Analytic of Principles  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (B198-256)

Mon, Dec 5  
Kant: The Paralogisms  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (B274-79, 350-55, 362-66, 406-413)

Wed, Dec 7  
Kant: The Antinomies  
   Reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (B432-37, 448-79)

Fri, Dec 9  
Kant: Catch-Up and Review  

Exam #3  
Finals Week