

17TH-18TH CENTURY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 318 (3 hrs; MWF 10:00-10:50 AM), Manchester College, Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Steve Naragon, Office: Ad Bldg., #231c (Phone — *office:* 982-5041; *home:* 982-6033)

Online syllabus: <http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/318-S12/Welcome.html>

Required Texts:

- Garrett Thomson, *Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy*, 2nd ed. (Waveland Press, 2002). [ISBN: 1-57766-201-6]
- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, 3rd ed., translated by Donald A. Cress (Hackett, 1993), 72 pp. [ISBN: (0-87220-192-9)/(978-0-87220-192-7)]
- John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, abridged and edited, with an introduction, by Kenneth P. Winkler (Hackett, 1996), 416 pp. [ISBN: (0-87220-216-X)/(978-0-87220-216-0)]
- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Discourse On Metaphysics and Other Essays*, translated by Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew (Hackett, 1991), 96 pp. [ISBN: (0-87220-132-5)/(978-0-87220-132-3)]
- George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, edited by Robert M. Adams (Hackett, 1979), 137 pp. [ISBN: (0-915144-61-1)/(978-0-915144-61-7)]
- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, 2nd ed., edited by Eric Steinberg (Hackett, 1993), 151 pp. [ISBN: (0-87220-229-1)/(978-0-87220-229-0)]
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, translated by Werner Pluhar, abridged by Eric Watkins (Hackett, 1996), 229 pp. [ISBN: 0-87220-448-0]
- 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 can I hope for after death? 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.

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 at 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 pre-class paragraphs are due by 9:00 AM (submitted through ANGEL), and late is the same as never.** Each class period will be graded following a 6 pt. rubric (see below).

Almost Daily Essays. An essay topic is provided for nearly every day, and the essays are due **before** class. You will need to complete **fifteen** of these for full credit (that works out to about 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 ANGEL 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 will be worth a total of 45%. Participation will be 10%.

Participation Rubric (6 points total)

Pre-class paragraph (2 pts)	Quality of contributions (2 pts)	Frequency of participation (2 pts)
2 = Interesting passage, good discussion, helpful questions or worries are raised. 1 = Passage chosen suggests a lack of effort with the text, or else the paragraph lacks enough depth or care.	2 = Comments are relevant and reflect an understanding of the text(s) and previous remarks of other students. 1 = Comments suggest a lack of preparation or lack of attention to the remarks of others.	2 = Active participation at appropriate times. 1 = Occasional participation.

Daily Essay Rubric (5 points total)

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

Schedule of Discussion and Reading

Wed. Feb. 1

Inventing Modernity

Descartes to Leibniz

Fri. Feb. 3**Descartes: Seeking a Foundation**

Reading: Thomson, 14-20; René Descartes, "Meditation One"

Mon. Feb. 6**Descartes: Reason vs the Senses**

Reading: Thomson, 20-25; René Descartes, "Meditation Two"

Wed. Feb. 8**Descartes: God and Human Error**

Reading: Thomson, 26-36; René Descartes, "Meditation Three and Four"

Fri. Feb. 10**Descartes: God and Corporeal Nature**

Reading: Thomson, 37-47; René Descartes, "Meditation Five"

Mon. Feb. 13**Descartes: Reclaiming the World**

Reading: Thomson, 47-51; René Descartes, "Meditation Six"

Wed. Feb. 15**Spinoza: God and Substance**Reading: Thomson, 52-64; Spinoza, *Ethics*, Bk. I**Fri. Feb. 17 -- No Class****Mon. Feb. 20****Spinoza: Mind and Body**Reading: Thomson, 65-73; Spinoza, *Ethics*, Bk. II**Wed. Feb. 22****Spinoza: Knowledge**

Reading: Thomson, 74-79

Fri. Feb. 24**Leibniz: Truth and Reason**Reading: Thomson, 80-91; Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics***Mon. Feb. 27****Leibniz: Monads**Reading: Thomson, 92-100; Leibniz, *Monadology***Wed. Feb. 29****Leibniz: God and Space**

Reading: Thomson, 101-08

Exam #1	Fri, Mar 2
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Hobbes to Hume

Mon. Mar. 5**Bacon: The New Science**Reading: Thomson, 113-25; Bacon, "Aphorisms" from the *Novum Organum* (1620) [text]**Wed. Mar. 7****Hobbes: Science and Nature**Reading: Thomson, 126-36; Hobbes, *Leviathan*, introduction and Pt. 1, chs. 1 & 6 [text]**Fri. Mar. 9****Hobbes: Psychology and Politics**Reading: Thomson, 137-43; Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Pt. I, chs. 11, 13-14; Pt. II, chs. 17-18, 21 [text]**Mon. Mar. 12****Locke: Innate Ideas**Reading: Thomson, 144-59; Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. I, chs. 1-2.

Wed. Mar 14**Locke: Ideas and Qualities**

Reading: Locke, *Essay*, Bk. II, ch. 1-9.

Fri. Mar 16**Locke: Simple and Complex Ideas**

Reading: Thomson, 160-69; Locke, *Essay*, Bk. II, chs. 10-14.

-----Spring Break-----

Mon. Mar 26**Locke: Words and Things**

Reading: Locke, *Essay*, Bk. III, chs. 1-3.

Wed. Mar 28**Locke: Knowledge ...**

Reading: Locke, *Essay*, Bk. IV, chs. 9-10.

Fri. Mar 30**Locke: ... and its Limits**

Reading: Locke, *Essay*, Bk. IV, ch. 11.

Mon. Apr 2**Berkeley: Immaterialism**

Reading: Thomson, 182-97; George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, "First Dialogue"

Wed. Apr 4**Berkeley: God**

Reading: Thomson, 198-207; George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, "Second and Third Dialogue"

[Fri. Apr 6 — Good Friday]**Mon. Apr 9****Hume: Ideas and Impressions**

Reading: Thomson, 208-17; David Hume, *Inquiry*, §2-3

Wed. Apr 11**Hume: Relations of Ideas and Matters of Fact**

Reading: Thomson, 218-28; David Hume, *Inquiry*, §4

Fri. Apr 13**Hume: Naturalism**

Reading: Thomson, 218-28; David Hume, *Inquiry*, §5

Mon. Apr 16**Hume: Necessary Connection**

Reading: Thomson, 229-41; David Hume, *Inquiry*, §7

Wed. Apr 18**Hume: Miracles**

Reading: David Hume, *Inquiry*, §10

Exam #2**Fri, Apr 20****Kant****Mon. Apr 23****Kant: On Enlightenment**

Reading: Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (1784)
(selection online)

Wed. Apr 25**Kant: The Revolutionary**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Preface A and B, Introduction.

Fri. Apr 27**Kant: On Space and Time**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*,
Transcendental Aesthetic (B33-58).

Mon. Apr 30 — No Class**Wed. May 2****Kant: On Concepts**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B74-76, 89-95, 102-9)

Fri. May 4**Kant: The Transcendental Deduction**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B116-69)

Mon. May 7**Kant: The Analytic of Principles**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B198-256)

Wed. May 9**Kant: The Paralogisms**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B274-79, 350-55, 362-66, 406-413)

Fri. May 11**Kant: The Antinomies**

Reading: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B432-37, 448-79)

Exam #3**Finals Week**