

17TH-18TH CENTURY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 318 (3 hrs; MWF 2:00-2:50 PM; ; Science Center 102), Manchester University, Fall 2016

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:

- Wallace Matson, *A New History of Philosophy*, Vol. 2: *From Descartes to Searle*, 2nd ed. (Harcourt, 2000). [ISBN: 0-15-507849-6]
- 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 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)

Length (1 pt)	Discussion (3 pts)	Mechanics (1 pt)
1 = At least 80 words. 0 = Less than 80 words.	3 = Interesting passage, good discussion, helpful questions or worries are raised. 2 = Passage chosen is unremarkable or discussion lacks engagement with the passage.	1 = No misspelling or punctuation errors. 0 = Something needs to be fixed.

Short Essay Rubric (5 points total)

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

Schedule of Discussion and Reading

Wed. Aug 31

Inventing Modernity

Descartes to Leibniz
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**Reading: Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. I, chs. 1-2.**Wed. Oct 12****Locke: Ideas and Qualities**Reading: Locke, *Essay*, Bk. II, ch. 1-9.

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**