

17TH-18TH CENTURY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 318 (3 hrs), Manchester College, Spring 2008

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

Required Texts:

- (1) Garrett Thomson, *Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy*, 2nd ed. (Waveland Press, 2002). [ISBN: 1-57766-201-6]
- (2) 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)]
- (3) 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)]
- (4) 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)]
- (5) 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)]
- (6) 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)]
- (7) Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, translated and edited by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood (Cambridge University Press, 1999), 800 pp. [ISBN: 0521657296]

Recommended Texts:

- (1) Robert Audi, ed., *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 2nd ed.

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 to class**. Class discussions and your success in this class depend upon this. If you cannot commit to doing this, then you should not enroll in this course.

Attendance. A course on philosophy is by its nature aimed at self-examination and discussion; consequently, taking the class requires being there. **Six** absences (excused or otherwise) are allowed. After that, each additional absence (of any kind) results in a 1% drop in your course grade.

Student Presentations. Each student will choose a philosopher (either one on our syllabus, or another from that time period) and then make a brief (10 minute) presentation of this philosopher to the class. This should include a brief life chronology and a summary of the work. A one page handout should also be prepared for the other members of the class, and made available on the day of your presentation. It is expected that the material offered in these presentations will reach beyond what is available to the class in the textbook (and please be sure to document your sources).

Exegetical essays. You will need to write about ten two-page exegetical essay assigned for a paragraph or two of text or sometimes an expository essay on some topic. These need to be typed and proofed, but otherwise shouldn't involve more than an hour or two of your time. Staple your pages together (if you go over one page), but please avoid title pages, covers, or other such excesses. Papers are graded on spelling, grammar, punctuation, and clarity of style, but

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I'm primarily interested in how well you can tackle a bit of text on your own and make sense of it. Late papers are drastically penalized.

Exams. There will be three essay exams.

Grading. Each exam is worth 20%; the group of exegetical essays are worth 30%; and student presentations are worth a total of 10% of the course grade.

Schedule of Discussion and Reading		
<p><u>Thu, Jan 31</u> Introduction to Modern Philosophy</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Descartes</p> <hr/> <p><u>Tue, Feb 5</u> 1st and 2nd <i>Meditations</i></p> <p><u>Thu, Feb 7</u> 3rd and 4th <i>Meditations</i></p> <p><u>Tue, Feb 12</u> 5th and 6th <i>Meditations</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Spinoza</p> <hr/> <p><u>Thu, Feb 14</u> <i>Ethics</i>, Book 1</p> <p><u>Tue, Feb 19</u> <i>Ethics</i>, Book 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Leibniz</p> <hr/> <p><u>Thu, Feb 21</u> <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i></p> <p><u>Tue, Feb 26</u> <i>Monadology</i></p>	<p>Hobbes</p> <hr/> <p><u>Tue, Mar 4</u> Selection from <i>Leviathan</i>.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Locke</p> <hr/> <p><u>Thu, Mar 6</u> <i>Essay</i>, Bk. 1, ch. 1; Bk. 2, chs. 1-9.</p> <p><u>Tue, Mar 11</u> <i>Essay</i>, Bk. 2, chs. 10-14.</p> <p><u>Thu, Mar 13</u> <i>Essay</i>, Bk. 3, chs. 1-3.</p> <p>Tue, Mar 18-20 - Spring Break</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Berkeley</p> <hr/> <p><u>Tue, Mar 25</u> First <i>Dialogue</i></p> <p><u>Thu, Mar 27</u> Second and Third <i>Dialogues</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Hume</p> <hr/> <p><u>Tue, Apr 1</u> <i>Inquiry</i>, §§2-3</p> <p><u>Thu, Apr 3</u> <i>Inquiry</i>, §§4-5</p> <p><u>Tue, Apr 8</u> <i>Inquiry</i>, §7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kant</p> <hr/> <p><u>Tue, Apr 15</u> Prefaces A & B</p> <p><u>Thu, Apr 17</u> Introduction</p> <p><u>Tue, Apr 22</u> Transcendental Aesthetic</p> <p><u>Thu, Apr 24</u> Metaphysical Deduction</p> <p><u>Tue, Apr 29</u> Transcendental Deduction</p> <p><u>Thu, May 1</u> Principles of the Understanding</p> <p><u>Tue, May 6</u> Refutation of Idealism</p> <p><u>Thu, May 8</u> Antinomies</p>
Exam #1	Thu, Feb 28	Exam #3
	Exam #2	Thu, Apr 10
		Finals Week