

History of Modern Philosophy

Philosophy 202, Spring 2013
Monday & Thursday, 1:10-2:25 | Griffin 4

No laptops or food in class.

Joe Cruz, Department of Philosophy and Program in Cognitive Science

FROM THE COURSE CATALOG

A survey of 17th- and 18th-century philosophy with a focus on the major metaphysical and epistemological writings of Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. This active and exciting historical span is the source of many contemporary philosophical approaches and themes, and it continues to attract scholarly interest in its own right. Topics include the natures of mind and body, the physical world, freedom, and human knowledge and the rise of mechanistic science.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at Water Street Books)

Ariew, R. and Watkins, E., eds. (2000) *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, volumes 1 and 2. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Kant (1787/2007) *Critique of Pure Reason*. Smith, Norman Kemp (trans.), 2nd edition. London: Palgrave.

GRADING

Grading on all writing assignments will be anonymous. Please turn in your work with only your Williams ID number on it.

Anonymous grading is one way of assuring that the collegiality of our interactions does not cloud my assessment of your work. The desire to preserve the integrity of the anonymous grading system should never prevent you from seeking advice or feedback on assignments for this course.

1. *Three Essay Exams*

Exams will consist of five essay topics from which you will choose three to write on. Each essay will be a 800-1000 words. The exams are completely open book and open notes, and the usual standards for referencing quotations or paraphrases apply. You may not discuss the material with other students while you are working on the essays.

The first two essay exams may be taken in any 24 period starting from immediately after class on the Thursday the exam is distributed up until midnight the following Sunday. See the course schedule for timing of the first two exams. The final exam is self-scheduled during finals and is administered by the registrar's office.

The second and third exams are in principle cumulative in the sense that some questions may ask you to engage material from earlier in the course. In each exam, however, questions will be considerably weighted to the material immediately leading up to that exam.

Each exam is worth one third of your final grade.

2. Weekly assignments

Weekly assignments will be 300-400 word answers to assigned questions on the reading due at the beginning of class on most Mondays. Only hard copies will be accepted. The questions are posted to Glow and there will be 10 weekly assignments in total.

Weekly assignments will be marked on a 0 to 3 point scale where 3 is for exceptional work, 2 is for a full and adequate answer, and 1 indicates the need for improvement. Weekly assignments may not under any circumstances be turned in late and failure to turn in an assignment will earn a 0 score. If you are not turning in a weekly assignment, you must email to me as an attachment or turn in a sheet of paper that has on it your student ID and the statement, *I acknowledge that I will receive a zero for this assignment*. Failure to do this will indicate that you are dropping the course and I will immediately notify the registrar.

Your weekly assignments will be averaged and will modify your final course grade—i.e., the grade computed from the three 24 hour essay exams—as follows:

2.5-3	Raised one grade step (e.g., B+ to A)
1.7-2.49	Stays the same
1.2-1.69	Lowered one grade step (e.g., B to B-)
Below 1.2	Lowered two grade steps (e.g., A to B+)

You are not expected to consult outside sources for weekly assignments. Any direct quotations or paraphrased material from outside sources must be credited and footnoted. Violation of this constitutes plagiarism. If you have questions about how the honor code applies to written work, please contact me.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 2:30-4
Thursdays Noon-1
(And by appointment)

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

January Discussion: History of Modern Philosophy
 Readings: None

All readings until Kant from vols. 1 and 2 of Readings in Modern Philosophy

February	Discussion:	Galileo; Descartes on Method
4	Readings:	Galileo, <i>Corpuscularianism</i> , vol. 1, pp. 8-11 Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , vol. 1, pp. 12-21 Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Letter of Dedication, Preface, Synopsis, vol. 1, pp. 22-27
7	Discussion:	Descartes — First and Second Meditations
	Readings:	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , vol. 1., pp. 27-34 Objections and replies, vol. 1, p. 56, pp. 63-66
11	Discussion:	Descartes — Third, Fourth and Fifth Meditations
	Readings:	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , vol. 1, pp. 34-48 Objections and replies, vol. 1, pp. 59-62, pp. 66-80
14	Discussion:	Descartes — Sixth Meditation
	Readings:	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , vol. 1, pp. 48-55 Correspondence with Elisabeth, supplementary handout
18	Discussion:	Hobbes — Reason
	Readings:	<i>Leviathan</i> , vol. 1, pp. 128-148
21	Discussion:	Spinoza — On Descartes; God
	Readings:	From <i>Descartes' Principles of Philosophy</i> , vol. 1, pp. 110-115 <i>Ethics</i> , vol. 1, pp. 158-178
25	Discussion:	Spinoza — Mind and Knowledge
	Readings:	<i>Ethics</i> , vol. 1, pp. 178-201
28	Discussion:	Boyle — Mechanical Philosophy
	Readings:	<i>Mechanical Philosophy</i> , vol. 2, pp. 4-10
<hr/> FIRST 24 HOUR ESSAY EXAM THIS WEEKEND <hr/>		
March	Discussion:	Locke — Ideas
4	Readings:	<i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , vol. 2, 11-22
7	Discussion:	Locke — Free Will and God
	Readings:	<i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , vol. 2, pp. 40-50,

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- 11 Discussion: Locke — Existence of Other Things; Berkeley — *Essi Est Percipi*
Readings: *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, vol. 2, pp. 104-108
A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge, vol. 2, pp. 130-146
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- 14 Discussion: Leibniz — *Discourse on Metaphysics*
Readings: *Discourse on Metaphysics*, vol. 1, pp. 234-257
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- April Discussion: Leibniz — *The Monadology*
1 Readings: *The Monadology*, vol. 1, pp. 285-293
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- 4 Discussion: Leibniz — *The Monadology* continued
Readings: *The Monadology*, vol. 1, pp. 285-293 (re-read entire)
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- 8 Discussion: Hume — The Origin and Association of Ideas
Readings: *Treatise of Human Nature*, vol. 2, pp. 237-251
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- 11 Discussion: Hume — Skeptical Doubts
Readings: *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, vol. 2, pp. 336-342
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- 15 Discussion: Hume — Skeptical Solution
Readings: *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, vol. 2, pp. 343-359
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- 18 Discussion: Hume — Soul and Self
Readings: *Treatise of Human Nature*, vol. 2, pp. 312-327
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- SECOND 24 HOUR ESSAY EXAM THIS WEEKEND
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- 22 Discussion: Hume — Liberty, Skepticism
Readings: *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, vol. 2, pp. 359-369
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- 25 Discussion: Kant — Prefaces and Introduction to the *Critique of Pure Reason*
Readings: *Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 7-62
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- 29 Discussion: Kant — Transcendental Aesthetic
Readings: *Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 65-91
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- May Discussion: Kant — Transcendental Logic
2 Readings: *Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 92-119
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- 6 Discussion: Kant — Analogies of Experience and The Second Analogy
Background: Professor Matthey's Notes on the Schematism & Notes on the Second Analogy
Readings: *Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 208-212, pp. 218-233
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- 9 Discussion: Kant — Refutation of Idealism and Phenomena and Noumena
Readings: *Critique of Pure Reason*, Refutation of Idealism, pp. 244-247, pp. 257-275
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SELF-SCHEDULED 24 HOUR TAKE HOME FINAL

