

Philosophy 432: History of Modern Philosophy
TR 12:30-1:45
Professor: Margaret Atherton
Office: CTR 629
Office Hours: T 2-3 and by appointment
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Books for the Course:

Rene Descartes, *Selected Philosophical Writing*
Baruch Spinoza, *Ethics*
Gottfried von Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and other Writings*
John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*
David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*
Margaret Atherton, *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*

Note: I have uploaded copies of these texts on D2L. Please feel free to make use of conventional books if you would prefer. I have put information about the editions I generally order on D2L.

Work for the Course:

Completing all reading assignments for the day assigned and attending class are pre-requisites for participation in the course. If you miss a class, then you will be required to write out and turn in an answer to one of the study questions posted on the D2L website about the reading for the day you missed class.

Your grade will also be based on the following writing assignments:

1. There will be 6 1-2 pp. paper assignments whose due dates appear on the syllabus and on the course website on D2L. All students must complete 3 out of 6 assignments. Any student who chooses to complete all 6 assignments may exempt the final exam. Any student may rewrite as many papers as they wish. In every case, **if** your paper is improved, you will get a higher grade. If your paper is not improved, or by a hideous mischance made worse, you will suffer no penalty.
2. Each student will write a 5-7 pp. paper on a topic of their choosing. Graduate students will write a paper of at least 10 pp.
3. In-class final exam. Open book, open note. Wednesday, May 14 from 12:30-2:30 in the class room. To be held for students who have not qualified or who choose not to exempt the final. There will be no make-up exams scheduled. If you think for any reason there is the slightest possibility that you might have a problem making the final exam on the date scheduled, please plan to write all 6 papers. You have been warned

Course Schedule and Reading Assignment

Week 1

- 1/21 Introduction
1/23 Descartes
Principles of Philosophy I, Articles 1-12

Week 2

- 1/28 Descartes
Principles of Philosophy I, Articles 13-18
First short paper due
1/30 Descartes
Principles of Philosophy I, Articles 23-30, 43-56

Week 3

- 2/4 Descartes
Principles of Philosophy I, Articles 63-76, II 1-4, IV 196-207
2/6 Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia
Selections

Week 4

- 2/11 Spinoza
Ethics, Book I, Definitions, Axioms, Propositions 1-16
Second short paper due
2/13 Spinoza
Ethics, I, 17-36

Week 5

- 2/18 Spinoza
Ethics II, Definitions, Axioms, Props 1-7, 12-15
2/20 Spinoza
Ethics II 16-19, 32-40, IV 42

Week 6

- 2/25 Leibniz
Discourse on Metaphysics, Articles 1-3, 6, 8-15, 19, 23, 33
Third short paper due
2/27 No class

Week 7

- 3/4 Leibniz
Monadology

- 3/6 Leibniz, *Monadology*
- Week 8
- 3/11 Locke
Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Bk I, 1, Bk II, 1-12
- 3/13 Locke
Essay, Book II, 21-23, 27
- SPRING BREAK
- Week 9
- 3/25 Locke
Essay, Bk II, 29-33, Bk III 3, 6
Fourth short paper due
- 3/27 Locke,
Essay Bk IV 1-4, 10, 11
- Week 10
- 4/1 Catharine Trotter Cockburn
Selections
- 4/3 Berkeley
Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous I 171-1
- Week 11
- 4/8 Berkeley
Three Dialogues I, 194-207
- 4/10 Berkeley
Three Dialogues II
- Week 12
- 4/15 Berkeley
Three Dialogues III
Fifth short paper due
- 4/17 Mary Shepherd
Selections
- Week 13
- 4/22 Hume
Treatise on Human Nature Bk I, Pt I, Sections 1-7
- 4/24 Hume
Treatise on Human Nature, Bk I, Pt III, Sections 1-6
- Week 14
- 4/29 Hume
Treatise on Human Nature, Bk I, Part III, 7-9, 12, 14-15
Sixth short paper due
- 5/1 Hume
Treatise on Human Nature, Bk I, Part III, 7-9, 12, 14-15

Week 15

5/6 Study Day: No class

5/8 Study Day: No class
Final paper due in my mailbox

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14, 12:30-2:30