

History of Modern Philosophy

Fall 2014 | Phil 201



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TEXTS

1. Descartes, *Meditations on first philosophy*
2. Du Châtelet, *Selected Philosophical and Scientific Writings*
3. Hume, *Enquiry concerning human understanding*
4. Ariew (editor), *Correspondence/Leibniz & Clarke*

REQUIREMENTS

Students must attend, and participate in, each class and submit five essays.

- 1st essay: 1 page on Descartes [15%]
- 2nd essay: 1 page on Descartes and Newton [15%]
- 3rd essay: 2 pages on Leibniz & Clarke [20%]
- 4th essay: 2 pages on Châtelet [20%]
- 5th essay: 3 pages on Hume [30%]

PART ONE: DESCARTES, SCIENCE, AND RATIONALISM

Lecture 1	Introduction: what is modern philosophy, anyway?
Lecture 2	Descartes, begin 1 st meditation
Lecture 3	Descartes, finish 1 st meditation
Lecture 4	Descartes, begin 2 nd meditation
Lecture 5	Descartes, finish 2 nd meditation
Lecture 6	Descartes, 3 rd meditation
Lecture 7	Descartes on space, time and motion, pp. 179-190, 240-243, 255-258. (Excerpt from <i>The Philosophical Writings of</i>

Descartes, Volume I, edited by John Cottingham, et al.,
Cambridge University Press, 1985.)

- Lecture 8 Princess Elisabeth's criticisms of Descartes, pp. 1-25, 61-73. (Excerpt from *Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and René Descartes*, edited and translated by Lisa Shapiro, University of Chicago Press.)

PART TWO: TWO REACTIONS TO DESCARTES – LEIBNIZ & NEWTON

- Lecture 9 Newton's criticisms of Descartes pp. 14-25 (*De Gravitatione*); pp. 64-73 (*Principia*). (Excerpts from *Isaac Newton, Philosophical Writings*, edited by Andrew Janiak, Cambridge University Press.)
- Lecture 10 Newton's view of space, time and motion
- Lecture 11 Leibniz's criticisms of Descartes
- Lecture 12 Leibniz & Clarke, *Correspondence*, first two exchanges
- Lecture 13 Leibniz & Clarke, *Correspondence*, third exchange
- Lecture 14 Leibniz & Clarke, *Correspondence*, fourth & fifth exchange

PART THREE: EMPIRICISM AND MERGING LEIBNIZ & NEWTON

The first two Locke excerpts are from *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Peter H. Nidditch, Clarendon Press, Oxford.

- Lecture 15 Locke on ideas – pp. 43-65
(Book I, Ch. 1 & 2)

- Lecture 16 Locke on primary & secondary qualities – pp. 132-143
(Book II, Ch. 8)
- Lecture 17 Locke on thinking matter – pp. 339, 348-357.
(Excerpts from the Stillingfleet Correspondence in *An
Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Hackett
Classics, edited by Kenneth P. Wikler, Hackett
Publishing, 1996.)
- Lecture 18 Lecture will cover Du Châtelet's reply to Locke on
thinking matter; read Châtelet, *Foundations of Physics*,
preface, pp. 115-124, and editor's introduction.
- Lecture 19 Du Châtelet, *Foundations of Physics*, Chapter One, pp.
124-138
- Lecture 20 Du Châtelet, *Foundations of Physics*, Chapter Two, pp.
138-147; Chapter Seven, pp.163-174
- Lecture 21 Du Châtelet, *Foundations of Physics*, Chapter Eleven,
pp.174-187

PART FOUR: HUME'S CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

- Lecture 22 Hume on ideas and the nature of philosophy, *Enquiry*, 1-
13
- Lecture 23 Hume on ideas, cont., *Enquiry*, 1-13
- Lecture 24 Hume on causation, *Enquiry*, 15-37
- Lecture 25 Hume on causation, cont., *Enquiry*, 39-53
- Lecture 26 FINAL PAPER DUE