

Course Description

This course is a survey of early modern philosophers from Descartes to Kant. We will concentrate on issues in metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of religion. We will also examine some of the early modern women philosophers whose work has recently begun to receive the attention it deserves.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with the history of western philosophical thought, gain experience reading philosophical texts, learn to extract, explain, and critically evaluate arguments within the text, gain facility in writing philosophical essays and exams, and learn basic research skills.

Course/ Instructor Information

Meeting times and place: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:15 PM in LA1 304

Professor: Marcy P. Lascano

Office Location: MHB 901

Office hours: Mondays 11:00 - 12:00 and Wednesdays 9:30 - 1:30

E-Mail: mlascano@csulb.edu

Course Wiki Page: <http://phil204sp11.csulb.wikispaces.net/>

Course Texts

1. *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, (Hackett, 1994) edited by Margaret Atherton
2. *René Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy* (Third Edition, Hackett 1993), Translated by Donald Cress.
3. *John Locke: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett, 1996), edited by Kenneth Winkler.
4. *Baruch Spinoza: Ethics* (Hackett, 1992), translated by Samuel Shirley and edited by Seymour Feldman.
5. *G.W. Leibniz: Philosophical Essays* (Hackett, 1989), edited by Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber.
6. *David Hume: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett, 1993), edited by Eric Steinberg
7. *Immanuel Kant: Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (Second Edition, Hackett, 2001), Translated by James W. Ellington.

Course Requirements

Exams, Course Project, and Quizzes

Examinations (60%): There will be three take-home examinations in the course. Each exam will ask you to answer two questions and will be no more than three pages long. Each examination is worth 100 points, and all together they are worth 60% of your course grade.

Course Project (20%): The course project is a multi-part research project which will involve each student writing a short “wiki” entry on a “non-canonical” figure in the history of philosophy. Information concerning the Course Project can be found in the “Assignments” area of Beachboard. There are several components to the project which will be graded, and the total project is worth 100 points (20% of the course grade).

Quizzes (20%): There are 10 quizzes in this class. Each quiz is worth 10 points, and all together they are worth 20% of your course grade. These quizzes will be done through Beachboard. Each quiz will be a quiz on the reading material assigned for class on the day the quiz is due. These are reading comprehension quizzes. The quiz will cease to be

available 10 minutes before the beginning of class on the day which it is due. In order to be excused from a quiz, your documented excuse must cover the 72 hours BEFORE the quiz was due.

General Policies

Attendance Policy: Attendance in this course is mandatory. **If a student misses a deadline for a quiz, project, or examination, they must provide documentation of an University excused absence in order to make up the work. In order to make-up a quiz, the documentation must cover 72 hours before the quiz due date.**

University policy on EXCUSED ABSENCES:

1. Illness or injury to the student.
2. Death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like.
3. Religious reasons (California Education Code section 89320).
4. Jury duty or government obligation.
5. University sanctioned or approved activities (examples include: artistic performances, forensics presentations, participation in research conferences, intercollegiate athletic activities, student government, required class field trips).

In this course, documentation is required for each excused absence.

Special Accommodations:

If any student requires special accommodations for testing or lectures, please let me know within the first 2 weeks of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to contact Disabled Student Services and make special arrangements.

In Class Conduct:

- Cell phones, beepers, video games, and MP3 players will be turned off during class.
- Computers may be used in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. No instant messaging, no game playing, web surfing, or completing of other assignments during class. If you wish to do these things take it somewhere else. These activities are disrespectful and disrupt both the instructor and your fellow classmates.
- Students will not speak out of turn in class, or be disrespectful towards other students or the instructor.
- Failure to abide by any of these rules of conduct will result in dismissal from the course.

Communications

If you need to reach me, send me an email (mlascano@csulb.edu). I'm online often, and can usually respond within 24 hours (often much sooner). You may also come by my office or call my office for brief questions. For longer discussions regarding course readings or examinations, please come to my office hours or contact me to make an appointment.

Academic Honesty

Violations of CSULB policies concerning academic honesty will not be tolerated in this course. I will do my best to see to it that students caught cheating in this course are subjected to the most severe penalties consistent with these policies. **Any instance of cheating in the course will result in an "F" for the course. You will also be reported to the Provost for Student Affairs, and will be unable to repeat/delete the "F" you earn in this course.**

The most common form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's ideas as one's own. In short, plagiarism is a form of dishonesty. Don't be dishonest!

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving credit to the source. Such an act is not plagiarism if it is ascertained that the ideas were arrived at through independent reasoning or logic or where the thought or idea is common knowledge.

Acknowledgment of an original author or source must be made through appropriate references, i.e., quotation marks, footnotes, or commentary. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following: the submission of a work, either in part or in whole, completed by another; failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another; in written work, failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even a part thereof; or close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing or programming. A student who is in doubt about the extent of acceptable paraphrasing should consult the instructor.

Students are cautioned that, in conducting their research, they should prepare their notes by (a) either quoting material exactly (using quotation marks) at the time they take notes from a source; or (b) departing completely from the language used in the source, putting the material into their own words. In this way, when the material is used in the paper or project, the student can avoid plagiarism resulting from verbatim use of notes. Both quoted and paraphrased materials must be given proper citations.

Definition of Cheating

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain or aiding another to obtain academic credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means.

Examples of cheating during an examination include, but are not limited to the following: copying, either in part or in whole, from another's test or examination; discussion of answers or ideas relating to the answers on an examination or test unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the instructor; giving or receiving copies of an examination without the permission of the instructor; using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other information or devices inappropriate to the prescribed test conditions, as when the test of competence includes a test of unassisted recall of information, skill, or procedure; or allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the same. Also included is plagiarism as defined and altering or interfering with the grading procedures.

It is often appropriate for students to study together or to work in teams on projects. However, such students should be careful to avoid the use of unauthorized assistance, and to avoid any implication of cheating, by such means as sitting apart from one another in examinations, presenting the work in a manner which clearly indicates the effort of each individual, or such other method as is appropriate to the particular course.

University Policy on Withdrawals

Rules for Course Withdrawals

1. Withdrawals During the 1st and 2nd Weeks of a Semester Students may withdraw during this period and the course will not appear on their permanent transcripts. To do this a student must file a Complete Withdrawal Application to drop all classes, or, alternatively, a Change of Program Form to drop a specific class or classes. Fees are not refundable after the second week of classes.

2. Withdrawal Between the 3rd and 12th Weeks of a Semester Withdrawals during this period semester are permissible only for "serious and compelling reasons."

*The definition of "serious and compelling reasons" as applied by faculty and administrators becomes more narrow as the semester progresses.

* Please be advised that doing poorly in a class does not constitute a serious or compelling reason. The "W" is not intended to be used as a mechanism to escape being awarded the grade that a student has been earning.

*The procedure for withdrawal during this period are the same as in item 1, except that you will need both the signature of the course instructor whose course you are seeking to drop and the signature of the Department Chairperson.

*Your request to withdraw must state the serious and compelling reasons for the withdrawal on the withdrawal form.

3. Withdrawal During the Final 3 Weeks of a Semester Withdrawals after the 12th week of instruction are not granted absent the most serious and compelling of reasons, such as the documented death of an immediate (not extended) family member; a documented, serious medical condition that requires withdrawal from all courses; a call from reserve to active military service; etc. The procedures for withdrawal during this period are the same as in item 2, but also require the approval and signature of the Dean or Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. Moreover, the Office of the Provost will review all such requests before they are formally approved.

Limitations on the Number of Withdrawals

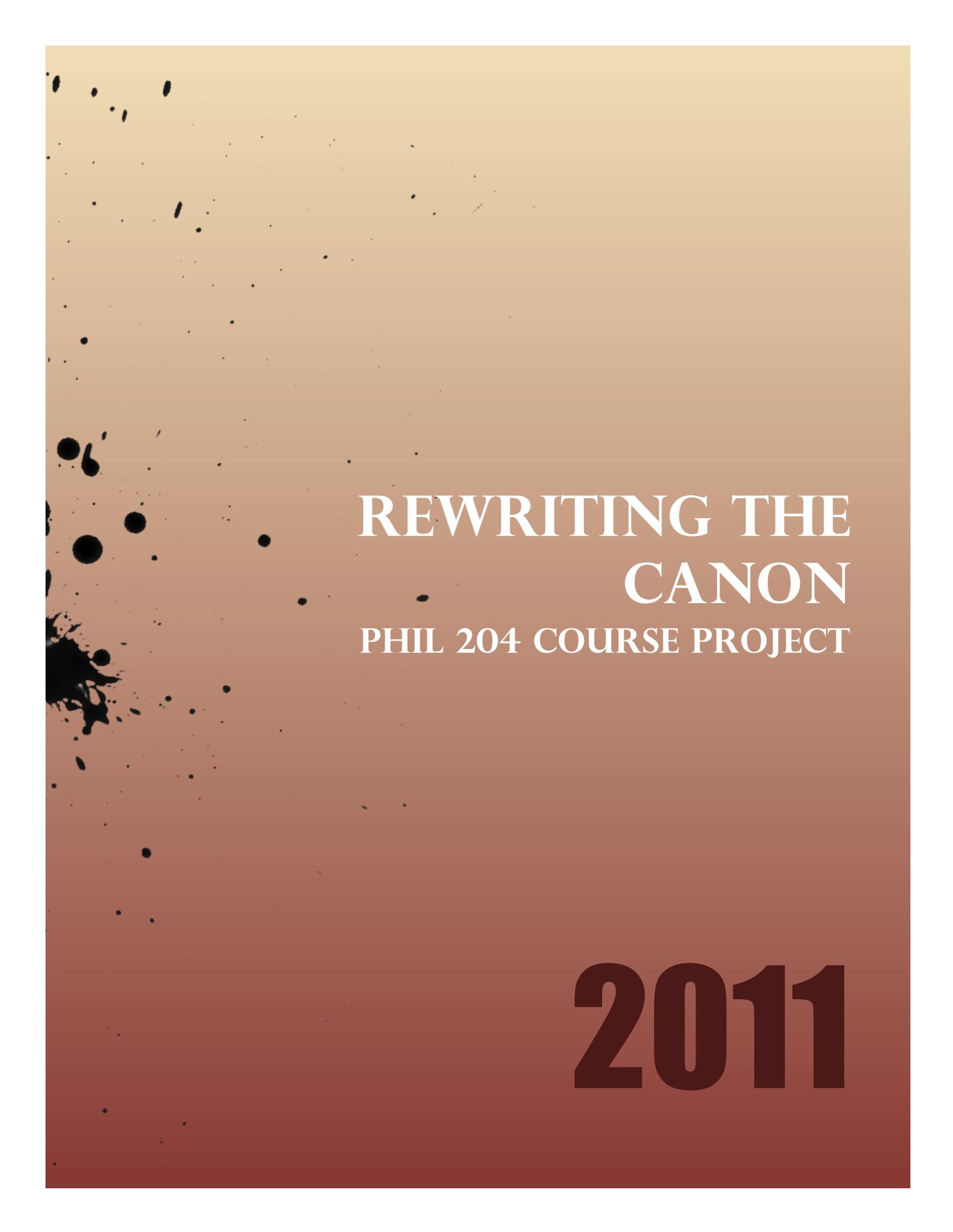
Starting in the Fall 2009 semester, pursuant Executive Order # 1037 from the CSU Chancellor's Office, undergraduates may withdraw from a career-maximum of 18 units. Medical withdrawals ("WE") do not count towards this 18 unit limit.

Course Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Mon 1/24	Introduction to the course, syllabus, The Early Modern Period
Wed 1/26	Discussion of Course Project/Research Methods in Philosophy
Mon 1/31	Descartes, Meditation I, p. 8-17 Quiz 1 Due
Wed 2/2	Descartes, Meditation II - III p. 17-35
Mon 2/7	Descartes, Meditations IV-V, p. 35-47
Wed 2/9	Descartes, Meditation VI, p. 47-59 Quiz 2 Due
Mon 2/14	NO CLASS - INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE
Wed 2/16	WPEMP, Elizabeth, p. 9-21 WIKI (A) DUE
Mon 2/21	Locke, Power, Freedom, Happiness, p. 93-114 Quiz 3 Due
Wed 2/23	Locke, Cause & Effect, Identity, Personhood, p. 132-150
Mon 2/28	WPEMP, Astell, 96-125 Quiz 4 Due AND WIKI (B) DUE
Wed 3/2	<i>Review/Take Home #1 Given at end of class</i>
Mon 3/7	<u>NO CLASS - WORK ON TAKE-HOME EXAM #1</u>
Wed 3/9	Spinoza, Ethics Pt. 1, p.31-62 <u>TAKE HOME EXAM #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS</u>
Mon 3/14	Spinoza, Ethics Pt. V, p. 201-223 Quiz 5 Due
Wed 3/16	WPEMP, Conway, p. 46-76 Quiz 6 Due
Mon 3/21	Leibniz, p. 149-155
Wed 3/23	Leibniz, p. 28-69 Quiz 7 Due WIKI (C) DUE
Mon 3/28	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
Wed 3/30	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
Mon 4/4	Leibniz, p. 94-101
Wed 4/6	Leibniz, 193-196; 213-225 Quiz 8 Due
Mon 4/11	WPEMP, Masham, p. 77-95 WIKI (D) PART 1 DUE

Wed 4/13 *Review/Take Home Exam #2 Given at end of class*
Mon 4/18 NO CLASS WORK ON TAKE HOME EXAM #2
Wed 4/20 Hume, Skeptical Doubts, p. 15-25 TAKE HOME EXAM #2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
Mon 4/25 Hume, Liberty and Necessity, p. 53-69 **WIKI (E) DUE**
Wed 4/27 Hume, of Miracles, 72-90 **Quiz 9 Due**
Mon 5/2 Kant, Prolegomena, p. 9-35
Wed 5/4 Kant, Prolegomena, p. 36-63 **WIKI (D) PART 2 (FINAL) DUE**
Mon 5/9 Kant, Prolegomena, p. 64-99 **Quiz 10 Due**
Mon 5/11 *Review/Take Home #3 Given at end of class*

**TAKE HOME EXAM #3 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD -
MONDAY, MAY 16TH AT 12:30 PM**



REWRITING THE
CANON
PHIL 204 COURSE PROJECT

2011

PHIL 204 Course Wiki Project – “Rewriting the Canon”

Course wiki: <http://phil204sp11.csulb.wikispaces.net/>

During the course of our class, each student will contribute to our class project “Rewriting the Canon.” This project is a Wiki that will give brief information about “non-canonical” figures in the early modern period. The project has several components, each worth a certain number of points. Ultimately, each student will produce an entry on a figure that includes biographical information, bibliographical information, and philosophical content.

In addition, each student will engage in philosophical commentary on at least 2 other wiki entries. Throughout the course of the term, I will also offer various “extra credit” assignments that have to do with the wiki project.

Before you can begin: You need to set up a Beach Wiki Account. In order to do this, go to the “Course Documents” section of Beachboard. There you will find step-by-step instructions on setting up your Beach Wiki account. Note: If you have already set up an account for another course, you can skip this step. Next, you must request to join the course wiki. Search for PHIL204SP11, then request to join.

Once you join the course wiki, you will see an example page “Emilie Du Châtelet.” This page will give you an idea of what your wiki page should look like. However, feel free to add extra information/photos/links, etc.

Timeline:

(A) 10 Points: Pick your philosophical figure (due by 2/16). There are numerous philosophical figures in our time period that are not covered in our class. **You must submit the name of a philosopher to me – philosophers are given on a first come/first serve basis.** I will keep a master list of the people already assigned. There are several criteria for selection:

1. The person cannot be a person we are covering in the course.
2. The person in question must fall into our time period. They must have been born between 1400 and 1800.
3. The person must have some published (accessible) philosophical works (monographs, articles, letters, etc.)

Ways to go about it: You can do Google searches for early modern philosophers, of course. In addition, you might check the footnotes and indexes of our textbooks. There you will find people who corresponded with or are mentioned by the philosophers whom we are covering in class.

When you have the name of a philosopher which you are interested in, send me an email with (A) your full name and student number, (B) the philosopher’s name, and (C) the philosopher’s dates (birth and death). I will reply with an email letting you know if you can continue with this person or not. If not, you must find another person before the due date!

(B) 15 Points: Biographical Information (due by 2/28). You are now ready to start your Wiki page. You will need to provide a brief overview of your philosopher's life (no more than 500 words). In order to do this, you will need to gather information about them. Here's what you need to do for this portion.

1. Find biographical information about this person. You may use the web, books, or articles. However, you must cite your sources. **You must use at least 2 source materials.**
2. Write up your biography on your wiki page, and be certain to cite your sources.
3. Hand in to me a copy of the biography and print out or copies of your source materials.

(C) 15 Points: Bibliographical Information (due by 3/23). Provide a primary and secondary source list for your philosopher. Here you will need to provide a list of the primary sources (that is, any books, articles, etc. written by the philosopher in question) and a list of secondary source materials (books, articles, webpages, etc. written about your philosopher) for your page.

1. Find bibliographical information. You may use the web, books, or articles. However, you must indicate where you are getting your information. **You must include all the primary materials written by your philosopher and must include at least one secondary source.**
2. Write up the list and add it to your page.
3. Hand in a copy of your list and printouts or copies of your source materials.

(D) 40 Points: Philosophical Views (first draft due by 4/11 and final draft due by 5/9). Now you will write 500 words about the philosophical views of the person that you have chosen.

1. You will now need to read about your figure's philosophical views and decide which of their views you can summarize for your page.
2. Pick one topic that your figure addresses, such as free will, personal identity, the mind-body relationship, ontology, arguments for the existence of God, the nature of God, the nature of time or space, idealism, materialism, causation, accounts of knowledge, skepticism, etc.
3. Next, you will write a draft of this person's views on your wiki page. Be certain to cite where your figure gives these views.
4. Turn in a hardcopy of the draft to me.

How you will finalize your draft:

After you receive comments from others about your draft, you will need to revise it in light of these comments. **Your final draft is due by May 9th. You will turn in a hardcopy to me at this time.**

(E) 20 Points: Comments on other wiki pages (due by 4/25). You must provide comments on two other wiki pages on the philosophical content for that page. Here are the requirements:

1. No page may be commented on more than 2 times (and you cannot comment on your own page).
2. All comments must address some philosophical issue, and must either provide a serious philosophical worry or an objection to the view.
3. **You must turn in a hardcopy of your comments to me by 4/25 in order to get credit for this.**

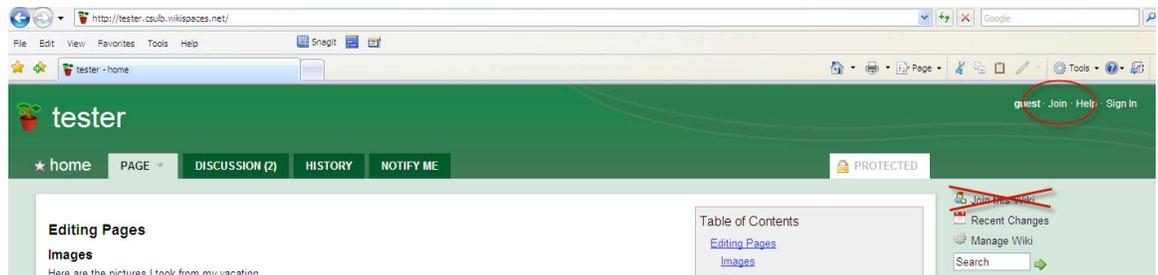
Bonus Points for Linking to Other Figures and Topics! You can earn up to one point per link (up to 10 points total).

BeachWiki Courses

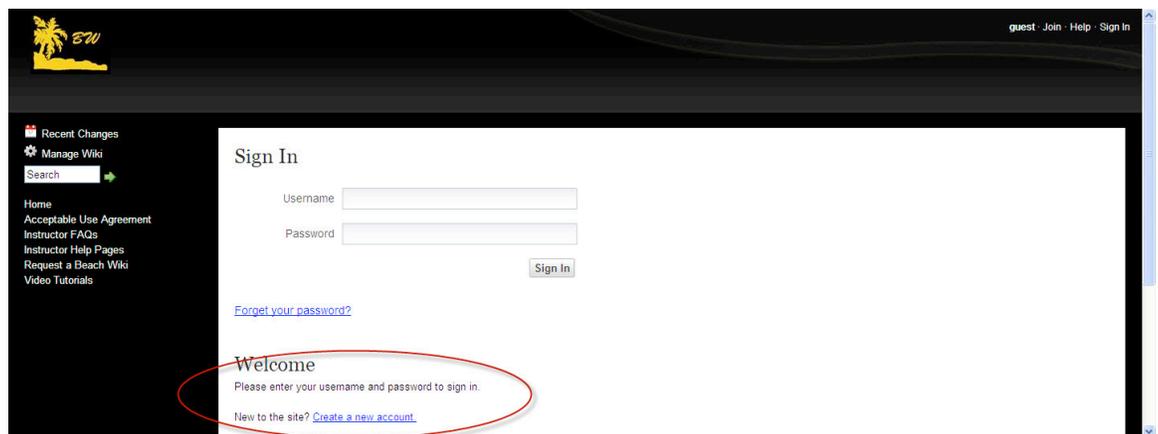
Instructions for Students

- If you already have a BeachWiki account, skip to step 7.
- **Note: If you already have a BeachWiki account, but your instructor is requiring a specific naming convention for your username, you CAN change your username. Log in to BeachWiki, click on My Account, and select Change Username.**

1. Go to your course wiki and click **Join**. DO NOT click “Join This Wiki.”



2. Click on **Create a New Account**. DO NOT “Sign In.”



3. Complete the “Join Now” form. User name, password, and email address are your choice. (Unless your instructor has specified a format for user names.) Click **Join**.

Join Now

Username

Password

Email Address

4. Go to your email account and open the confirmation email that appears in your inbox.
5. Click on the Confirm Your Email link provided.

Welcome to Beach Wiki

Your New Account

You have created an account on Beach Wiki. Below you can find information for your records:

Username **tywh89**

Email tywh89@gmail.com

Confirm Your Email

Your email address has not yet been confirmed. Confirm your email address by clicking the link below:

<http://www.csulb.wikispaces.net/t/c/5oRVUK5rMrYEZnM7dHx3Vn>

Jump On In

[Log in now.](#)

Getting Started Tips

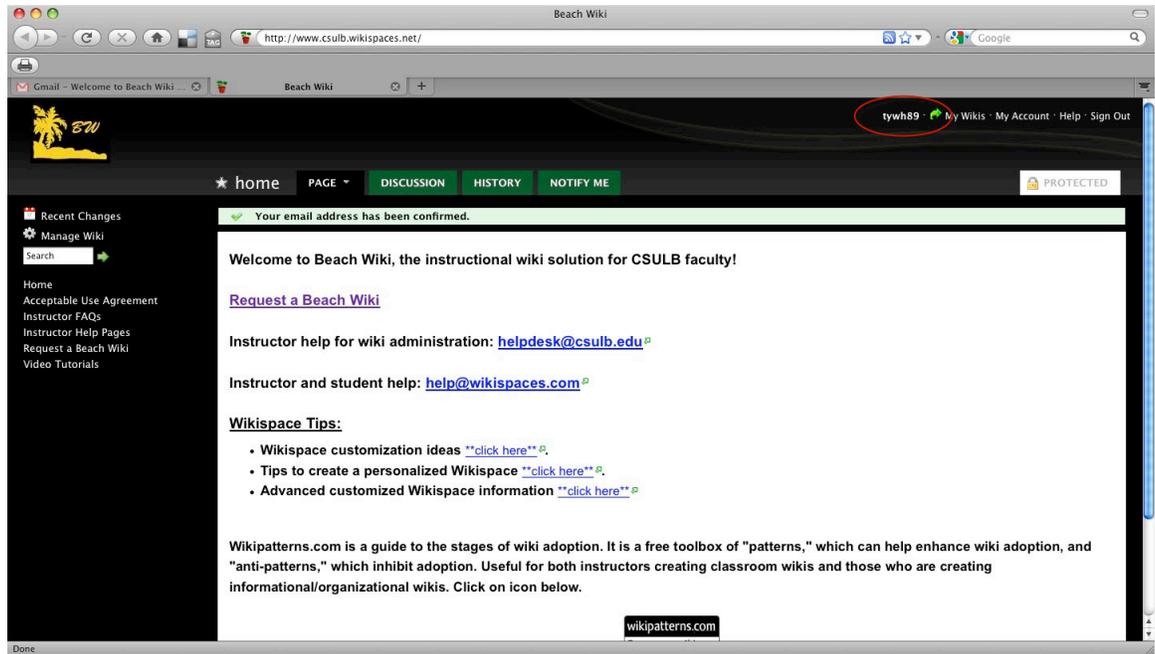
[Watch our tours](#) to learn the basics of working in Beach Wiki.

Need assistance?

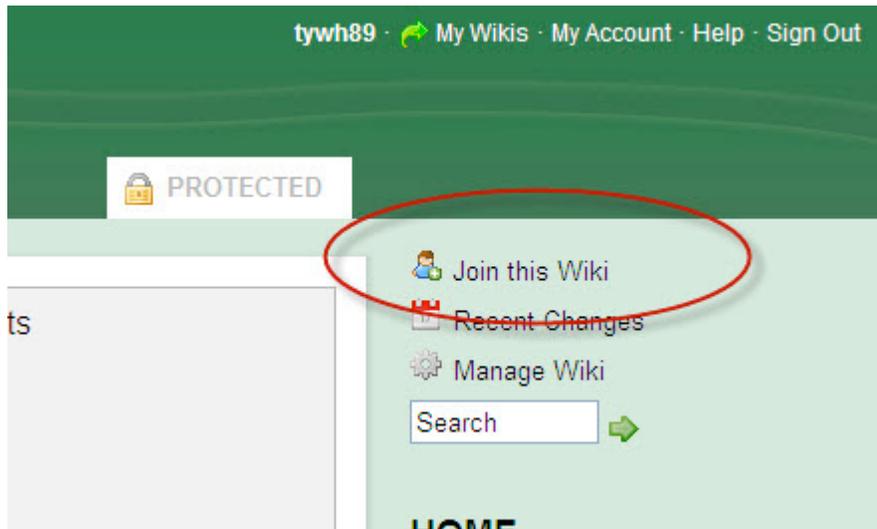
Contact us at helpdesk@csulb.edu

Sent from <http://csulb.wikispaces.net>

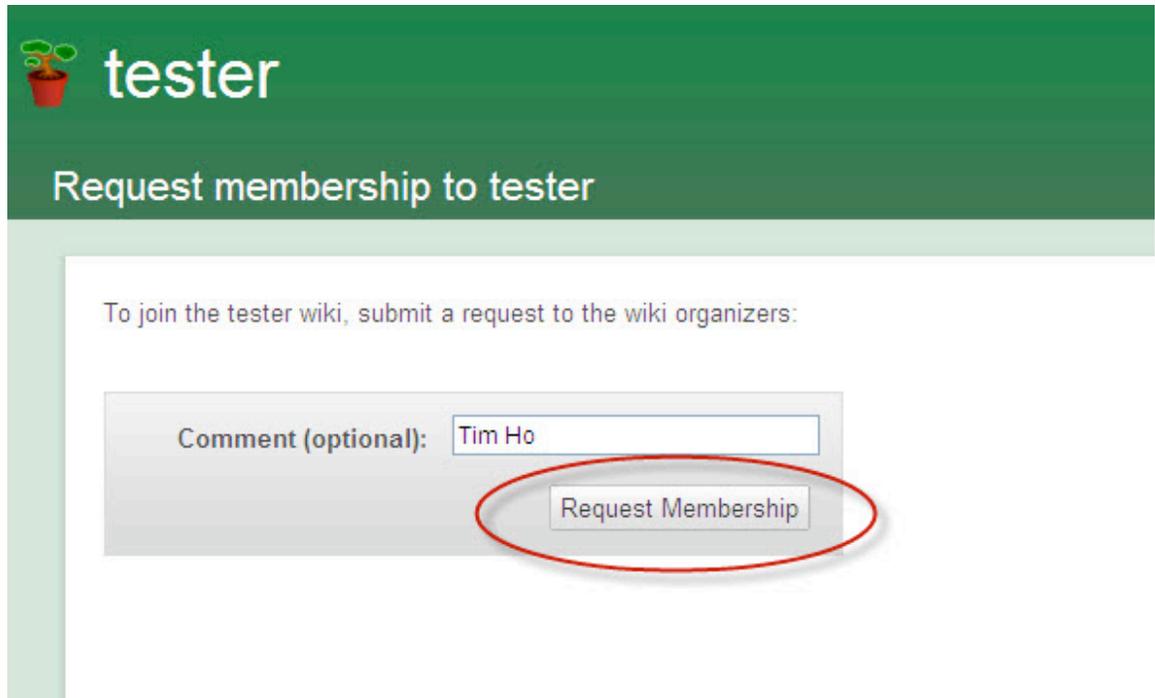
6. You will be brought back to the main BeachWiki page. Notice that your user name now appears in the menu in the upper right of the screen.



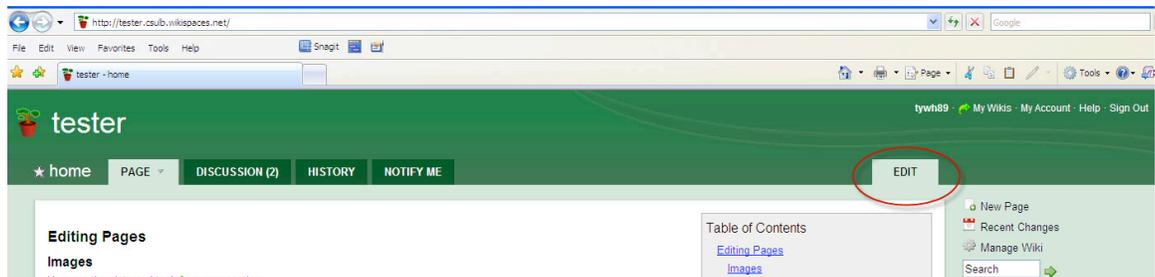
7. Return to your course wiki and click on **Join this Wiki**.



8. Request membership to the wiki. Your instructor might ask you to put your name or your CSULB ID in the optional Comment section to help with identification (especially if you are in a large class). Click **Request Membership**.



9. You will know your instructor has approved your request when the “Edit” tab appears when you log in to the course wiki.



10. Congratulations! You have successfully joined the BeachWiki community and have added yourself to your course wiki.