

Fall 2018
Philosophy 326—02C
17th and 18th Century Philosophy

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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Office Location : CCC 418

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Office Hours : MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

<http://charlesjhorn.webstarts.com/index.html>

Course Information:

Class Time: MW, 11:00am—12:15pm

Class Location: CCC 126

Course Description:

This course will examine some of the most important metaphysical and epistemological questions prevalent during the 17th and 18th century. We will focus on differing conceptions of substance, the limits of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of the self, the relationship between the mind and body, and the notions of causality, space, and time. We will devote the vast majority of our attention to several major figures in this period including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Less time will be spent examining some “minor” figures such as Montaigne, Bacon, Malebranche, Newton, and Reid.

Texts:

Rental:

1. *MP—Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources (2nd Ed.)*
Ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins
Hackett Publishing
ISBN: 978-0872209787
2. *WP—Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*
Ed. Margaret Atherton
Hackett Publishing
ISBN: 978-0-87220-259-7

Course Goals:

By carefully examining metaphysics and epistemology in modern philosophy, students will develop critical thinking skills by engaging, analyzing, and evaluating texts in order to write well, speak articulately, and argue persuasively.

Critical Thinking is purposeful, reflective reasoning about what conclusions to draw or actions to take. With diligent effort on their part, students will:

1. Recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluation, and constructing reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw or actions to take.
2. Construct reasoning as it applies to philosophical questions and issues.

Expectations:

Students are encouraged to attend every class and remain for the entire time. Students must complete the necessary readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and participation. Students will treat other students with respect. This means, turning off all electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) and addressing their peers in a respectful tone. It is important to note that the nature of this class will inevitably result in disagreements among colleagues; however, it is essential to maintain respect toward one another despite disagreement. Failure to meet any of these expectations could, and probably will negatively influence your final grade.

Additionally, this course will utilize the Canvas online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with Canvas regularly to find class updates, submit assignments, check your grades, etc.

Grading Criteria:

Late work will never be accepted unless an extension has been granted by Dr. Horn prior to the due date or a university approved excuse is given. Late work must be complete within one week of returning to the class. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Additionally, this course will utilize the Canvas online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with Canvas regularly to find class updates, submit work, check grades, etc.

Final grades will be based upon (1) *two in class exams* worth 30% each, and (2) *one final essay* worth 40%.

- (1) Exams will be constituted by several short answer questions.
- (2) The final essay must be submitted to Canvas by December 18, 2018 by 12:15pm. Essays turned in after the deadline will *not* be accepted. The essay should be between 1,250—1,750 words (5—7 pages). Additional requirements will be provided on the prompt.

Students will be permitted four unexcused absences. Any absence after four will result in a 5% deduction from the overall grade. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class, so if students are late, they will not be counted present for the day.

Final grades in the course will be based on the following scale.

A Range (90—100%)	B Range (80—89%)	C Range (70—79%)	D Range (64—69%)	F Range (0—63%)
	B+ (87—89)	C+ (77—79)	D+ (67—69)	F (<60)
A (94—100)	B (84—86)	C (74—76)	D (60—66)	
A- (90—93)	B- (80—83)	C- (70—73)		

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty could result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from the University.

Course Schedule:

PREFACE TO A REVOLUTION		
September 5	Syllabus/Course Introduction Teleology and the Scholastic Tradition	
THE FATHER OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY		
September 10	Descartes, Discourse on Method 1, 2, 5 Descartes, Meditations I—II	MP 25—34 MP 35—47
September 12	NO CLASS	
September 17	NO CLASS	
	Descartes, Meditations III—V	MP 47—61
September 19	Descartes, Meditations VI, Objections and Replies	MP 61—92
September 24	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes	WP 11—22
THE MOST DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHER		
September 26	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part I	MP 144—155
October 1	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part I	MP 155—164
October 3	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part II	MP 164—187
October 8	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part V	MP 188—195
THE ECLECTIC COURTIER		
October 10	Lady Conway, <i>Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy</i>	WP 48—77
October 15	Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i>	MP 265—268
October 17	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>	MP 224—247
October 22	Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature, Monadology</i>	MP 269—283
October 24	Lady Masham, Correspondence with Leibniz	WP 80—96
October 29	<i>Exam I</i>	
THE CLASSICAL EMPIRICIST		
October 31	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	MP 316—348
November 5	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	MP 348—377
November 7	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> Leibniz, <i>Preface to the New Essays</i>	MP 377—433
COMMON SENSE UNDONE		
November 12	Berkeley, <i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i> , Preface, Introduction, Part I Section 1—33	MP 438—453
November 14	Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous</i>	MP 454—503
THE UNRELENTING SKEPTIC		
November 19	Hume, <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i> , Introduction, I.4.5—6	MP 517—432
November 21	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	MP 533—564
November 26	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> Shepherd, <i>Essays on the Perception of an External Universe</i>	MP 564—600 WP 149—159
November 28	<i>Exam II</i>	
THE NEW REVOLUTION		
December 3	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Preface and Introduction	MP 717—729
December 5	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic	MP 730—737
December 10	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Analytic of Concepts, Principles	MP 738—783
December 12	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Dialectic	MP 783—819

Final Paper Due: Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Deadline is 12:15pm.

The Professor reserves the right to adjust the course schedule to best satisfy the needs of the class.