

PHIL3303-002: MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 1600-1800

Spring 2015

Tu/Th 2:00-3:20

Eng/Phil 153

Instructor

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Office hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Course Description

The period from roughly 1600-1800 is undoubtedly one of the most important times in the history of philosophy (and mankind!), ushering in the birth of modern science, the rise of empiricism, and with these, a game-changing upheaval of metaphysics and epistemology. About the last century of this period is known as the Age of Enlightenment, and saw probably more advances in political philosophy than at any time before it (or perhaps since). In this course, we will look to such philosophers as Descartes, Hume, Locke, Berkeley, and Kant. (Writing Intensive)

Required Text

- Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (eds.), *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources* (2009: Hackett; ISBN: 978-0872209787)

(Additional readings will be available as handouts in class or in PDF format on my website, www.tytoken.com.)

Course Requirements

Your final grade will depend on the percentage you earn of the total points possible in the class: A+: 97-100; A: 94-96; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-79; C: 74-76; C-: 70-73; D+: 67-69; D: 64-66; D-: 60-63.

Exams

Grading for this class will consist of four exams, each making up 25% of the course grade. Each of the four exams will consist in *one take-home essay question* (assigned a week prior, and due in class on the scheduled day of the exam) and a choice of *one of two essay questions* to be written in class on the scheduled day of the exam. Both the take-home and in-class essays will be evenly weighted for each exam. For the *first three exams*, students will be given the option of revising their in-class essay at home within a week of the exam being returned. The difference between the original grade and the new grade will be halved and applied to the essay grade (so, if a student's grade on an in-class essay question was 85% and was revised to 95%, the *actual* final grade on that essay would be 90%).

Attendance

There is no participation grade for this class. However, for every class you miss without authorized excuse, your participation grade will be deducted 1 point. See also "Classroom Courtesy" below.

Special Accommodations

- Students with disabilities that require special class or exam accommodations must present a form from AccessTECH Disability Support Program specifying the details during the first week of classes. Their offices are located in 335 West Hall. See www.accesstech.dsa.ttu.edu.

- You will not be penalized for any absences due to religious observances. However, it is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any intended absences for religious observance *as soon as possible* so that we can make other arrangements. As well, it remains your responsibility to have read the material assigned for that day and to obtain any notes from one of your classmates for classes missed.

Classroom Courtesy

Please be courteous to your fellow students and avoid unnecessary disruptions. Arrive on time, leave on time, and *turn off your cell phone during class*. Note that if your cell phone rings during class, *I will answer it*. Laptops are permitted in class, but please do not abuse this privilege. Text-messaging is *not* permitted during my class. If you are seen text-messaging during class-time, your grade will be deducted 1 percent. This is your only warning. Likewise, for every class you miss without authorized excuse, your final grade will be deducted 1 percent.

The Writing Center

Particularly for new philosophy students, I strongly recommend that you work on your paper with a writing tutor. The Writing Center offers *free assistance* in room 175 of the Philosophy and English Building. See <http://english.ttu.edu/uwc01>.

Academic Integrity and Irresponsibility

I take incidents of academic misconduct *very seriously*. These include but are not restricted to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication. Penalties are dependent on the nature of the misconduct, and may involve disciplinary proceedings with the Student Judicial Programs. Knowing what constitutes academic misconduct is *your responsibility*. If you have a concern about what constitutes academic dishonesty *prior to turning in an assignment*, please see me, and I will be happy to help you. For more information, see <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>.

Course Schedule

(Note: Schedule is subject to change.)

Readings listed below should be read *before* class. Readings marked “PDF” will be provided to students electronically; all other readings are in the Ariew/Watkins text.

Th: 01/15	• Introduction and Background: <i>No Readings</i>
Tu: 01/20	• Montaigne, <i>Apology for Raymond Sebond</i> (4-15)
Th: 01/22	• Bacon, <i>New Organon</i> (16-20) • Galilei, <i>The Assayer</i> (21-24)
Tu: 01/27	• Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> (25-34)
Th: 01/29	• Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : preamble, Meditations I-III (35-54)
Tu: 02/03	• Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> : Meditations IV-VI (54-68)
Th: 02/05	• Pascal, “The Wager” (106-109)
Tu: 02/10	EXAM 1
Th: 02/12	• Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> (114-136)
Tu: 02/17	• Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> : Part I (144-164)
Th: 02/19	• Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> : Part II (164-187)
Tu: 02/24	• Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> (224-247)
Th: 02/26	• Leibniz, From the Letters to Arnauld (248-268)
Tu: 03/03	• Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> (275-283)
Th: 03/05	EXAM 2
Tu: 03/10	• Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> : Bk.I; Bk.II, Chs. I-XII (316-342)

Th: 03/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>Essay</i>: Bk.II, Chs. XXI-XXIII, XXVII (348-377)
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March 14-22 Spring Break

Tu: 03/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>Essay</i>: Bk.IV, Chs. I-X (386-411)
Th: 03/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues</i> (454-484)
Tu: 03/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayle, "Pyrrho" (512-516) • Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>, §§I-VII (533-564)
Th: 04/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>, §§VIII, XII (564-575; 593-600)
Tu: 04/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, <i>An Inquiry into the Human Mind</i> (641-653)
Th: 04/09	EXAM 3
Tu: 04/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (717-729)
Th: 04/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (729-746; 768-781)
Tu: 04/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "Of the Delicacy of Taste and Passion" (PDF) • Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste" (PDF)
Th: 04/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "Of Tragedy" (PDF) • Burke, Selections from <i>A Philosophical Enquiry Into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful</i> (PDF)
Tu: 04/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, "Of Taste" (PDF)
Th: 04/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>: "Analytic of the Beautiful" (PDF)
Tu: 05/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>: "Analytic of the Sublime" (PDF)

EXAM 4 is scheduled to take place Thursday, May 7, at 4:30. Although the university allots 2 ½ hours for this exam, we will only be using an hour and 20 minutes (the same as our in-class exams).