

University of California, San Diego
**Philosophy 111 History of Philosophy: Early Modern
Winter 2017**

Professor Don Rutherford
Office hours: M 12-1 pm, W 2-3 pm, or by app't (HSS 8046)
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Class: MWF 1-1:50 pm
Solis 109

Description

This course focuses on the development of early modern metaphysics and epistemology through the works of René Descartes (1596-1650), Benedict de Spinoza (1632-1677), Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), John Locke (1632-1704), George Berkeley (1685-1753), and David Hume (1711- 1776). The early modern period is characterized by a turn away from the doctrines of Aristotle (384-322 BCE), as incorporated in the theological framework articulated by medieval thinkers such as Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), and toward a new way of looking at the world that is compatible with the mathematized conception of nature developed by Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), Isaac Newton (1643-1727) and others. It is common to think of the main figures of this period as divided into two camps: rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz), for whom some ideas are innate and reason by itself can discover fundamental truths about reality, and empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume), for whom there are no innate ideas and all significant knowledge is founded on sense experience. But the interplay between these six philosophers reveals a more complex story, one in which the rationalist/empiricist division is only one of many. We will see, for example, that Leibniz is sympathetic to Aristotle in ways that Descartes is not, that the main thesis of Locke's empiricism derives from Aristotle, that Berkeley's view of the natural world is arguably more similar to Leibniz's than to anyone else's, and that all the figures other than Hume are rationalists at least in believing that unaided reason is capable of demonstrating the existence of God. Understanding the evolution of metaphysics and epistemology in the early modern period is critical for understanding the views of Immanuel Kant, whose philosophy is a focus of Philosophy 112.

Prerequisites

Philosophy 111 is the second in the three-course history of philosophy sequence required of all Philosophy majors. It is assumed that you have already taken Philosophy 110.

Texts

M: Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, tr. Cottingham (Cambridge)

WP: Atherton (ed.), *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period* (Hackett)

S: Spinoza, *Ethics*, tr. Curley (Penguin)

DM: Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and Other Essays*, tr. Ariew and Garber (Hackett)

EHU: Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett)

3D: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (Hackett)

1E: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Knowledge* (Hackett)

All these texts are required and may be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore or online. Other assigned readings will be made available via the class TED site. Please bring the relevant books to lecture. If other editions are used, full citations must be provided in all written work.

Assignments

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| • Short writing assignment (argument reconstruction) | 10% | due January 18 |
| • Two medium-length papers (approx. 2000 words), each | 25% | due February 3 and March 3 |
| • Final examination | 40% | |

Schedule of Classes and Readings

WEEK 1

January 9: Introduction

Reading: Rutherford, "Innovation and Orthodoxy in Early Modern Philosophy" (TED)

January 11: Descartes (The Method of Doubt)

Reading: Dedicatory Letter to the Sorbonne, Preface, Synopsis, First Meditation (**M**, pp. 3-15),
Objections & Replies (**M**, pp. 63-67)

January 13: Descartes (The Cogito and the Nature of Mind)

Reading: Second Meditation (**M**, pp. 16-23), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 68-77)

WEEK 2

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO CLASS

January 18: Descartes (Two Arguments for the Existence of God)

Reading: Third Meditation (**M**, pp. 24-36), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 78-89)
ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE

January 20: Descartes (God's Veracity and the Source of Error)

Reading: Fourth Meditation (**M**, pp. 37-43), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 90-94)

WEEK 3

January 23: Descartes (The Nature of Body, the Ontological Argument, and the Circle)

Reading: Fifth Meditation (**M**, pp. 44-49), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 95-106)

January 25: Descartes (Real Distinction and the Argument for the Existence of Bodies)

Reading: Sixth Meditation (**M**, pp. 50-62), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 107-115)

January 27: Descartes and Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia (Problems with Interactionism)

Reading: Correspondence (**WP**, pp. 9-21)

WEEK 4

January 30: Spinoza (God as Substance)

Reading: *Ethics*, Definitions, Axioms, Props. 1-15 (**S**, pp. 1-13)

February 1: Spinoza (Finite Things as Modes)

Reading: *Ethics*, Props. 16-36, Appendix (**S**, pp. 13-31)

February 3: Spinoza (Mind and Body)

Reading: *Ethics*, Definitions, Axioms, Props. 1-31 (**S**, pp. 31-52)
ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

WEEK 5

February 6: Leibniz (First Principles)

Reading: **DM**, On the Ultimate Origination of Things (pp. 41-48); Preface to the *New Essays* (pp. 49-67)

February 8: Leibniz (The System)

Reading: **DM**, Discourse on Metaphysics (pp. 1-41)
Correspondence with Lady Masham (**WP**, pp. 77-95)

February 10: Leibniz (Idealism)

Reading: **DM**, Monadology (pp. 68-81)

WEEK 6

February 13: Locke (Against Innate Principles and Ideas, Ideational Empiricism)

Reading: **EHU**, Epistle to the Reader (pp. 1-3)
 Book I, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 4-32)
 Book II, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 33-42)
 Book II, Chapters 5-7 (pp. 44-46)
 Book II, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 56-66)
 Book II, Chapter 19 (p. 90)

February 15: Locke (Complex Ideas and Abstract Ideas)

Reading: **EHU**, Book II, Chapter 12 (pp. 66-68)
 Book II, Chapter 15, Section 9 (pp. 83-84)
 Book II, Chapter 17 (pp. 85-89)
 Book II, Chapter 22 (pp. 114-117)
 Book II, Chapter 23, Sections 1-10 (pp. 117-121)
 Book II, Chapter 23, Sections 33-37 (pp. 127-129)
 Book II, Chapters 25-26 (pp. 129-133)
 Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 1-13 (pp. 180-185)
 Book IV, Chapter 7, Section 9 (pp. 266-267)

February 17: Locke (Primary and Secondary Qualities)

Reading: **EHU**, Book II, Chapter 8 (pp. 47-56)
 Book II, Chapter 30, Sections 1-2 (pp. 157-158)
 Book II, Chapter 31, Sections 1-3 (pp. 160-161)

WEEK 7

February 20: President's Day – NO CLASS

February 22: Locke (Substance, Substratum, and Real Essence)

Reading: **EHU**, Book II, Chapter 12, Section 6 (p. 68)
 Book II, Chapter 13, Sections 17-20 (pp. 72-74)
 Book II, Chapter 23 (pp. 117-129)
 Book II, Chapter 30, Section 5 (pp. 159-160)
 Book II, Chapter 31, Sections 6-11 (pp. 162-165)
 Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 15-20 (pp. 185-187)
 Book III, Chapter 6 (pp. 192-203)
 Book III, Chapter 10, Sections 17, 20 (pp. 212-214)

February 24: Locke and Catherine Trotter Cockburn (Personal Identity)

Reading: **EHU**, Book II, Chapter 27 (pp. 133-150)
 Cockburn, "A Defense of Mr's Locke's *Essay*..." (**WP**, pp. 126-146)

WEEK 8

February 27: Berkeley (Why Qualities are Ideas)

Reading: **3D**, Preface (pp. 3-5) and First Dialogue (pp. 7-42)

March 1: Berkeley and Lady Mary Shepherd (Implications of Idealism and Criticisms)

Reading: **3D**, Second Dialogue (pp. 43-60)
 Shepherd, Selections from *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe*
 (**WP**, pp. 147-159)

March 3: Berkeley (Material Substance and Skepticism)

Reading: **3D**, Third Dialogue (pp. 61-94)
 ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

WEEK 9

March 6: Hume (Impressions and Ideas)

Reading: **1E**, Advertisement, Sections 1-3 (pp. 1-15)

March 8: Hume (The Problem of Induction)

Reading: **1E**, Sections 4-5 (pp. 15-37)

March 10: Hume (Probability and the Idea of Necessary Connection)

Reading: **1E**, Sections 6-7 (pp. 37-53)

WEEK 10

March 13: Hume (Of Liberty and Necessity and Animal Reason)

Reading: **1E**, Sections 8-9 (pp. 53-72)

March 15: Hume (Consequences for Religion)

Reading: **1E**, Section 10-11 (pp. 72-102)

March 17: Hume (Skepticism)

Reading: **1E**, Section 12 (pp. 102-114)

March 24: FINAL EXAM, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Other Important Information

- Regular attendance and completion of the required reading ahead of lectures are critical. Engagement with the course presupposes that you have done the assigned reading and are prepared to discuss it in class.
- Paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence of a valid excuse in a timely manner. Note that computer or printer failure does **not** usually constitute a valid excuse, so be sure to take all necessary precautions to safeguard your work (backup, backup, backup!). If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension or make-up, bring it to my attention as soon as possible (e.g., if you are going to be out of town for a legitimate purpose, such as a university-sponsored concert performance, athletic event, conference, or the equivalent). Unexcused late papers will be penalized one +/- letter grade per day.
- If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.
- Students should familiarize themselves with the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html>. There is a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism in this class. Anyone who is found to plagiarize work will receive an automatic F for the course. Additional disciplinary penalties may be assigned by the UCSD administration. Receipt of this syllabus constitutes an acknowledgement that you are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.