

University of California, San Diego
Philosophy 111 History of Philosophy: Early Modern
Winter 2018

Professor Don Rutherford
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Class: MWF 1-1:50 pm
 WLH 2115

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 advanced 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: M. 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 paper (approx. 800 words) | 10% | due January 19 |
| • Two medium-length papers (approx. 2000 words), each | 25% | due February 5 and February 26 |
| • Final examination | 40% | due March 23 |

Schedule of Classes and Readings

WEEK 1

January 8: Introduction

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

January 10: Descartes (The Method of Doubt)

Reading: Letter to the Sorbonne, Preface, Synopsis, First Meditation (**M**, pp. 3-19)

Optional: Objections & Replies (**M**, pp. 75-82)

January 12: Descartes (The Cogito and the Nature of Mind)

Reading: Second Meditation (**M**, pp. 20-27)

Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 83-95)

"Geometrical" exposition from Second Replies (TED)

WEEK 2

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO CLASS

January 17: Descartes (Two Arguments for the Existence of God)

Reading: Third Meditation (**M**, pp. 28-41),

Optional: Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 96-112)

January 19: Descartes (God's Veracity and the Source of Error)

Reading: Fourth Meditation (**M**, pp. 42-49),

Optional: Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 113-120)

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE

WEEK 3

January 22: Descartes (The Nature of Body, the Ontological Argument, and the Circle)

Reading: Fifth Meditation (**M**, pp. 50-56),

Optional: Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 121-135)

January 24: Descartes (Real Distinction and the Argument for the Existence of Bodies)

Reading: Sixth Meditation (**M**, pp. 57-71),

Optional: Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 136-153)

January 26: Descartes and Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia (Problems with Interactionism)

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

WEEK 4

January 29: Spinoza (God as Substance)

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

January 31: Spinoza (Finite Things as Modes)

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

February 2: Spinoza (Mind and Body)

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

WEEK 5

February 5: Leibniz (First Principles)

Reading: Discourse on Metaphysics (1686), §§1-14 (**DM**, pp. 1-16)

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

February 7: Leibniz (Monads)

Reading: Monadology (1714), §§1-48 (**DM**, pp. 68-75)

February 9: Leibniz (The System)

Reading: Monadology, §§49-90 (**DM**, pp. 75-81)
 Preface to the *New Essays* (1704) (pp. 49-67)

WEEK 6

February 12: Locke (Against Innate Principles and Ideas)

Reading: Epistle to the Reader (**EHU**, pp. 1-3)
 Book I, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 4-32)

February 14: Locke (Way of Ideas)

Reading: Book II, Chapters 1-7 (**EHU**, pp. 33-46)
 Book II, Chapters 9-12 (pp. 56-68)
 Book II, Chapter 21, Sections 1-5 (pp. 93-95)
 Book III, Chapter 3 (pp. 180-187)

February 16: Locke (Qualities, Modes and Substances)

Reading: Book II, Chapter 8 (**EHU**, pp. 47-56)
 Book II, Chapters 13-20 (pp. 69-92)
 Book II, Chapters 22-23 (pp. 114-129)
 Book III, Chapter 6 (pp. 192-203)

WEEK 7

February 19: President's Day – NO CLASS

February 21: Locke (Truth and Knowledge)

Reading: Book II, Chapter 30-32 (**EHU**, pp. 157-172)
 Book IV, Chapter 9-11 (pp. 274-292)

February 23: Locke (Personal Identity)

Reading: Book II, Chapter 27 (**EHU**, pp. 133-150)

WEEK 8

February 26: Berkeley (Why Qualities are Ideas)

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

February 28: Berkeley (Implications of Idealism and Criticisms)

Reading: Second Dialogue (**3D**, pp. 43-60)

March 2: Berkeley (Material Substance and Skepticism)

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

WEEK 9

March 5: Hume (Impressions and Ideas)

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

March 7: Hume (The Problem of Induction)

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

March 9: Hume (Probability and the Idea of Necessary Connection)

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

WEEK 10

March 12: Hume (Of Liberty and Necessity and Animal Reason)

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

March 14: Hume (Consequences for Religion)

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

March 16: Hume (Skepticism)

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

March 23: FINAL EXAM, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

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.