

PHL 32 - Early Modern Philosophy & the Rise of Modern Science

Introduction

This course is a survey of Western European philosophy in the early modern period, with emphasis placed on tracing the rise of modern science through an investigation of the metaphysics and epistemology of the most important figures of that time. We will study the writings of Bacon, Galileo, Montaigne, Hobbes, Descartes, Boyle, Locke, Newton, Leibniz, Berkeley and Hume. We will also investigate the relationship of science and philosophy to social and political issues of the time including magic and the persecution of witches. Topics for examination will include material from **both** lectures and required readings, covering topics including, but not limited to, corpuscularianism and mechanism, the nature of mind and of matter, the distinction between primary and secondary qualities, the roles of reason and sense of experience in the acquisition of knowledge, language and universals, skepticism, force and causality.

Philosophy places great emphasis on a method of enquiry, a method which prizes patience, precision, clarity, and rigor. For this reason the study of philosophy is often thought to be an excellent preparation for intellectual work in many other disciplines. As well as learning something about the great thinkers in philosophy, students in this course should expect to emerge with enhanced ability to engage in disciplined argument and to write in an organized and focused way.

Required Readings

All the required readings listed below are available for purchase at the UCSD Book Store. All other required or suggested readings will be found in the 'links' folder on the main course page.

1. Michael R. Matthews, ed., *The Scientific Background of Modern Philosophy: Selected Readings* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989).
2. Thomas Hobbes, *Human Nature and De Corpore Politico*, J.C.A. Gaskin, ed. (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1994)
3. Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, Donald A. Cress, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980)
4. John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Kenneth Winkler, ed., (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996)
5. George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, Kenneth Winkler, ed., (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1982)
6. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Eric Steinberg, ed., (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1977)
7. G.W. Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and Other Essays*, Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew, eds., (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1991)

(Note that all the texts are in the public domain. And so you may wish to find the texts online. However, the texts above are inexpensive, and they may be more useful as they have the relevant paginations.)

Course Requirements

1. Midterm Exam - Week 5 (30%)
2. Essay - Week 8 (20%)
2. Weekly Quizzes (15%)
3. Final Exam (35%) - Scheduled for Tues. March 15, 2011 - 8am-11am

Academic Integrity, Late Penalties, etc.

An excerpt from the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship reads:

"Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind."

All students are expected to follow the Integrity Policy. There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. In an effort to promote this policy all essays will be submitted through turnitin.com. You are strongly encouraged to read the Policy: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>

If accommodations are needed for disability or religious reasons, please let me know during the first week of classes. All requests for accommodation for disability will go through the UCSD office for students with disabilities: <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/>

Penalties for late essays are 10% per day. If you anticipate a conflict with the scheduling of our final exam, it is your responsibility to contact the appropriate administrators. For your 'final exam responsibilities' see <http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/academic-info/exams/responsibilities.html>