

University of California, San Diego
**Philosophy 111 History of Philosophy: Early Modern
Winter 2013**

Professor Don Rutherford
Office hours: M 3:30-5:00 p.m., or by app't (HSS 7010)
Office phone: 2-1655
Email: drutherford@ucsd.edu
Class website: <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

Cognitive Science Building 004
MWF 11:00-11:50

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of early modern metaphysics and epistemology through the works of René Descartes (1596-1650), 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 gradual turn away from the doctrines of Aristotle (384-322 BCE), as incorporated in the Catholic theological framework articulated by his prominent medieval supporters, most notably 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 and Leibniz), for whom some ideas are innate and reason can penetrate into the fundamental truths about the nature of the universe, and empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume), for whom there are no innate ideas and all knowledge of non-self-evident truths is founded on sense experience. But the interplay between these five 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 it is to anyone else's, and that all figures other than Hume are sufficiently rationalist to believe that unaided reason is capable of providing us with knowledge of the existence of God. Understanding the evolution of metaphysics and epistemology in the early modern period is one of the keys to understanding the views of Immanuel Kant.

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)
PE: Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, tr. Ariew and Garber (Hackett)
EHU: Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett)
P3D: Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues* (Oxford)
1E: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Knowledge* (Hackett)

All these texts are required and may be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore. Please bring the relevant books to lecture. Please use and quote from the assigned translations. If other editions are used, full citations must be provided in all written work.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

January 7: Introduction

January 9: Background to Early Modern Philosophy

Reading: Rutherford, "Innovation and Orthodoxy" (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).

WEEK 2

January 14: Descartes (The Cogito and the Nature of Mind)

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

January 16: Descartes (Two Arguments for the Existence of God)

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

January 18: 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 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO LECTURE

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)

WEEK 4

January 28 Descartes (Problems with Interactionism)

Reading: Correspondence with Princess Elisabeth (Handout)
FIRST PAPER DUE

January 30: Leibniz (First Principles)

Reading: **PE**: Discourse on Metaphysics (pp. 35-68),
On the Ultimate Origination of Things (pp. 149-155)

February 1: Leibniz (Pre-established Harmony)

Reading: **PE**: A New System of Nature (pp. 138-145),
Postscript of a Letter to Basnage de Beauval (pp. 147-149)

WEEK 5

February 4: Leibniz (Idealism)

Reading: **PE**: Letters to Arnauld (pp. 77-90),
Note on Foucher's Objection (pp. 145-147),
Monadology (pp. 213-225)

February 6: Locke (Against Innate Principles and Ideas)

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

February 8: Locke (Empiricism, Simple Ideas, and Mental Operations)

Reading: **EHU**: 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)

WEEK 6

February 11: 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 13: 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)

February 15: 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)

WEEK 7

February 18: PRESIDENTS' DAY – NO CLASS

February 20: Locke (Personal Identity)

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

February 22: Locke (Knowledge)

Reading: **EHU:** Book IV, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 224-254)
 Book IV, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 274-292)
 Book IV, Chapter 15 (pp. 302-305)
 Book IV, Chapter 16, Sections 1-9 (pp. 305-309)

WEEK 8

February 25: Berkeley (Why Qualities are Ideas)

Reading: **P3D**, Preface (pp. 117-119) and First Dialogue (pp. 121-156)
 SECOND PAPER DUE

February 27: Berkeley (The Argument for Idealism and the Master Argument)

Reading: **P3D**, First Dialogue (pp. 121-156)
P3D, Introduction to the *Principles* (pp. 37-51) and *Principles*, Sections 1-33 (pp. 53-64)

March 1: Berkeley (Replies to Objections)

Reading: **P3D**, Third Dialogue (pp. 175-208)
P3D, *Principles*, Sections 34-84 (pp. 64-84)

WEEK 9

March 4: Hume (Impressions and Ideas)

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

March 6: Hume (The Problem of Induction)

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

March 8: Hume (The Idea of Necessary Connection)

Reading: **1E**, Section 7 (pp. 39-53)

WEEK 10

March 11: Hume (Personal Identity and Immaterial Substance)

Reading: *Treatise of Human Nature*, Book I, Chapter 4, Sections 5-6 and Appendix (Handout)

March 13: Hume (Skepticism)

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

March 15: Conclusion

March 18: THIRD PAPER DUE (before 2:30 pm in my dept mailbox, HSS 7th Floor)

Course Assignments and Grading

- One shorter paper (approx. 1200 words) 20% due January 28
- One medium paper (approx. 2000 words) 30% due February 25
- Two reading responses posted to TED site 10% one before February 6, one after
- One take-home final paper (approx. 3000 words) 40% due March 18
- Up to 3% extra credit (for the quarter) will be given for a record of substantive replies to the reading response posts on TED.

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. 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.