

PHILOSOPHY 111: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY—EARLY MODERN

Professor: Samuel C. Rickless

Office: HSS 8009

Office Hours: Wednesday 2pm-3pm and Friday 10am-11am, or by appointment

Office Phone: 858-822-4910

E-mail: srickless@ucsd.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of Early Modern European metaphysics and epistemology through the works of René Descartes (1596-1650), Elisabeth of Bohemia (1618-1680), Margaret Lucas Cavendish (1623-1673), Anne Conway (1631-1679), Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), John Locke (1632-1704), Catharine Trotter Cockburn (1679-1749), George Berkeley (1685-1753), David Hume (1711-1776), and Mary Shepherd (1777-1847). The Early Modern period is governed by gradual evolution away from the doctrines of Aristotle (384-322 BCE), and towards a new way of looking at the world that is sympathetic to the emerging sciences conducted within the research program of corpuscularian mechanism. It is common to think of the main figures of this period as divided into two camps: rationalists, for whom some ideas are innate and reason can penetrate into the fundamental truths about the nature of the universe, and empiricists, for whom there are no innate ideas and all knowledge of non-self-evident truths is founded on sense experience. But the interplay among the philosophers of the early modern period reveals a far more complex story, one in which the rationalist/empiricist division is only one of many. There is, for example, a divide among materialists (those who think that all is matter—e.g., Cavendish), anti-materialists (who deny the existence of matter—e.g., Conway and Berkeley), and dualists (those who think that matter exists, but is not the only kind of finite thing that exists—e.g., Descartes and Leibniz). There is a divide between those who think that mind and body can causally interact (e.g., Descartes and Locke) and those who think that causal interaction between mind and body is impossible (e.g., Leibniz and Berkeley). There are those who think that we can know a great deal about the nature of the world (e.g., Descartes, Cavendish, Leibniz, and Berkeley) and those who think that our ability to know is quite limited (Locke, Cockburn, and Hume). Understanding the evolution of metaphysics and epistemology in the Early Modern period is one of the keys to understanding the views of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).

[**Prerequisites:** Departmental Stamp, course designed for philosophy majors.]

Course Texts

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

M: Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy*.

PE: Leibniz. *Philosophical Essays*.

EHU: Locke. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*.

P3D: Berkeley. *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues*.

1E: Hume. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.

All these texts are required and may be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore. Please bring the relevant texts to lecture. In your papers and assignments, please use and quote from the assigned translations and editions and no others. See instructions below for how to find material that is not in the required Course Texts listed above. My introduction to Locke's philosophy, *Locke* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014), is recommended for lectures 13-17, but it is not required. My Locke lecture notes are taken from the book.

Course Schedule

1. Introduction: Aristotelianism

2. Descartes (Method of Doubt, the Cogito, and the Nature of Mind)

Reading: Dedicatory Letter to the Sorbonne, Preface, Synopsis, First Meditation (**M**, pp. 3-19), Objections & Replies (**M**, pp. 75-82)
Lecture Notes (Meditation 1) on TritonEd

3. Descartes (The Cogito and the Nature of Mind)

Reading: Second Meditation (**M**, pp. 20-27), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 83-95)
Lecture Notes (Meditation 2) on TritonEd

4. Descartes (Existence of God, God's Veracity, and the Source of Error)

Reading: Third Meditation (**M**, pp. 28-41), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 96-112), Fourth Meditation (**M**, pp. 42-49), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 113-120)
Lecture Notes (Meditations 3 and 4) on TritonEd

5. Descartes (Nature of Body, Cartesian Circle, Real Distinction, Existence of Bodies)

Reading: Fifth Meditation (**M**, pp. 50-56), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 121-135), Sixth Meditation (**M**, pp. 57-71), Objections and Replies (**M**, pp. 136-153)
Lecture Notes (Meditations 5 and 6) on TritonEd

6. Elisabeth of Bohemia (Problems with Interactionism)

Reading: **WP**, Introduction and Correspondence with Descartes, pp. 1-21
Lecture Notes (Descartes-Elisabeth) on TritonEd

7. Cavendish (Metaphysics: Materialist Vitalism)

Reading: Philosophical and Physical Opinions, Part I (Chapters 1-24), Part IV (Chapters 1-3, 6, 13, 19, 25-26), Part VII (Chapter 72)

Instructions: You need to be connected to the internet at UCSD or through UCSD's VPN. Go to Early English Books Online: <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search>. In the "Title Keyword(s)" box, type "Philosophical and Physical Opinions". Click on the thumbnail of the book on the left. Read the relevant parts in **Images** (not pages) 20-33, 66-68, 70-71, 75-76, 82, 87-88, 248-249. You can move through the images by clicking on "Next Image" or "Previous Image". You can go to a particular image number by typing in the image number and clicking on "Go". On the bottom left of each webpage, you can make the image larger or smaller. The default is set at 46%. You can set it at 75% or larger. (I find 75% the best setting myself.) Please remember that the long "s" looks a lot like an "f". For example, the first line of Part I, Chapter 1, reads: "THere is no First Matter, if Matter is Infinite". Notice that the "s" in "First" looks like the "f" in "Infinite". You'll get used to it pretty quickly.

Observations Upon Experimental Philosophy, An Argumental Discourse, pp. 23-42 – **ON TritonEd WP**, Letter 35 (pp. 33-35) and Letter 37 (pp. 36-38)

8. Cavendish (Epistemology)

Reading: Observations Upon Experimental Philosophy, Chapters 35-37, pp. 137-194 – **ON TritonEd**

9. Conway (Anti-Materialist Vitalism)

Reading: **WP**, The Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy, pp. 46-76
FIRST PAPER DUE (uploaded to Turnitin on TritonEd)

10. Leibniz (First Principles)

Reading: **PE**, Discourse on Metaphysics (pp. 35-68), On the Ultimate Origination of Things (pp. 149-155)
Lecture Notes (Leibniz First Principles) on TritonEd

11. 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)
12. Leibniz (Idealism)
- Reading:* **PE**, Letters to Arnauld (pp. 77-90), Note on Foucher's Objection (pp. 145-147), Monadology (pp. 213-225)
Lecture Notes (Leibniz Idealism) on TritonEd
13. Locke (Against Innate Principles and Ideas, Ideational Empiricism)
- Reading:* **EHU**: Book I, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 43-65)
 Book I, Chapter 4, Sections 1-11 (pp. 84-90)
 Book I, Chapter 4, Sections 18-19 (pp. 95-96)
 Book II, Chapter 10, Section 2 (pp. 149-150)
 Book II, Chapter 1, Sections 1-8 (pp. 104-108)
 Book II, Chapter 1, Sections 20-25 (pp. 116-118)
 Book II, Chapters 2-3 (pp. 119-122)
 Book II, Chapters 5-7 (pp. 127-132)
 Book II, Chapter 9 (pp. 143-149)
 Book II, Chapter 11 (pp. 155-163)
Lecture Notes (Locke's Negative Project) on TritonEd
Lecture Notes (Locke's Positive Project) on TritonEd
14. Locke (Complex Ideas and Abstract Ideas)
- Reading:* **EHU**: Book II, Chapter 12 (pp. 163-166)
 Book II, Chapter 15, Section 9 (pp. 201-203, including footnote on pp. 201-202)
 Book II, Chapter 22 (pp. 288-295)
 Book II, Chapter 23, Sections 1-10 (pp. 295-301)
 Book II, Chapter 23, Sections 33-37 (pp. 314-317)
 Book II, Chapter 25 (pp. 319-324)
 Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 6-11 (pp. 410-414)
 Book IV, Chapter 7, Section 9 (pp. 595-596)
Lecture Notes (Locke on Complex Ideas and Abstract Ideas) on TritonEd
15. Locke (Primary and Secondary Qualities)
- Reading:* **EHU**: Book II, Chapter 8 (pp. 132-143)
 Book II, Chapter 30, Section 2 (pp. 372-373)
 Book II, Chapter 31, Section 2 (pp. 375-376)
 Book II, Chapter 31, Section 12 (pp. 382-383)
Lecture Notes (Locke on Qualities) on TritonEd

16. Locke (Substance, Substratum, and Real Essence)

Reading: **EHU:** Book II, Chapter 12, Section 6 (pp. 165-166)
 Book II, Chapter 13, Sections 17-20 (pp. 174-175)
 Book II, Chapter 23 (pp. 295-317)
 Book III, Chapter 6, Sections 1-13 (pp. 438-448)
 Book III, Chapter 10, Sections 17-21 (pp. 499-503)

Lecture Notes (Locke on Substance and Essence) on TritonEd

17. Locke (Knowledge)

Reading: **EHU:** Book IV, Chapter 1, Sections 1-7 (pp. 525-527)
 Book IV, Chapter 2, Sections 1-7 (pp. 530-534)
 Book IV, Chapter 2, Section 14 (pp. 536-538)
 Book IV, Chapter 3, Sections 1-21 (pp. 538-553)
 Book IV, Chapter 9 (pp. 618-619)
 Book IV, Chapter 10, Sections 1-6 (pp. 619-621)
 Book IV, Chapter 11, Sections 1-9 (pp. 630-636)
 Book IV, Chapter 15 (pp. 654-657)
 Book IV, Chapter 16, Sections 1-9 (pp. 657-663)

Lecture Notes (Locke on Knowledge) on TritonEd

18. Cockburn (Defense of Locke on the Soul and Personal Identity)

Reading: **EHU:** Book II, Chapter 1, Sections 9-19 (pp. 108-116)
 Book II, Chapter 27, Sections 9-27 (pp. 335-347)
 WP, A Defense of Mr. Locke's *Essay of Human Understanding*,
 pp. 126-146

19. Berkeley (Why Qualities are Ideas)

Reading: **P3D,** Preface (pp. 117-119) and First Dialogue (pp. 121-156,
 particularly from "Heat then is a sensible thing" on p. 125 to "You
 need say no more on this head" on p. 143)

Lecture Notes (Berkeley on Why Qualities are Ideas) on TritonEd

20. Berkeley (The Argument for Idealism)

Reading: **P3D,** First Dialogue (pp. 121-156, particularly from "What mean
 you by sensible things?" on p. 123 to "Nothing else" on p. 125),
 Introduction to the Principles, Sections 1-10 (pp. 37-41) and
 Principles, Sections 1-33 (pp. 53-64, particularly Sections 1-15, pp.
 53-58)

SECOND PAPER DUE (uploaded to Turnitin on TritonEd)

21. Berkeley (The Master Argument)

Reading: **P3D**, First Dialogue (pp. 149, from “But (to pass by all that has been hitherto said...)” to “I profess I know not what to think...”)
P3D, Principles, Sections 22-24

22. Shepherd: (Proof of External Existence and Criticisms of Berkeley)

Reading: Essays on the Perception of an External Universe, Part I, Chapters 1-2, pp. 13-75 – **ON TritonEd** (Note: There are 451 PDF pages in the book. Please read PDF pages 46-108.)
WP, Essays on the Perception of an External Universe, p. 147-159

23. Hume (Impressions and Ideas)

Reading: **1E**, Sections 1-3

24. Hume (The Problem of Induction)

Reading: **1E**, Sections 4-5

25. Hume (The Idea of Necessary Connection)

Reading: **1E**, Section 7
Lecture Notes (Hume on Necessary Connection) on TritonEd

26. Hume (Skepticism)

Reading: **1E**, Section 12

27. Shepherd (Criticisms of Hume on Induction)

Reading: An Essay upon the Relation of Cause and Effect, pp. 27-68 and pp. 99-114 -- **ON TritonEd** (Note: There are 216 PDF pages in the book. Please read PDF pages 41-82 and 113-128.)

28. Conclusion

*Monday, March 18: **THIRD PAPER DUE** (uploaded to **Turnitin on TritonEd** before 2:30pm)*

Course Requirements

* One medium paper (approx. 2000 words): 25%

- * One medium paper (approx. 2000 words): 25%
- * One take-home final paper (approx. 3500 words): 50%

For some meetings, I will make course notes available on TritonEd. You should always bring the course notes to lecture. All course notes are for your personal use only; you are not permitted to share them with anyone who is not enrolled in this course. Attendance at every lecture and doing the required reading (including the course notes) ahead of each lecture are absolutely critical. As insurance against missing a lecture (for whatever reason), please arrange (ahead of time) to borrow notes from someone else in the course.

Paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence indicative of a valid excuse in a timely manner. [Note that computer or printer failure does not usually constitute a valid excuse.] If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension either at that time or later in the quarter, 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 receive a grade of F.

If you need to make an appointment to see me outside of office hours, please do so by contacting me by email with at least several days' notice.

Additional Notes

- * **If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.**
- * **The academic honor code must be observed in this course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F in the course (not just an F on the relevant assignment) and will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and the Council of Deans for administrative penalties, which may include suspension or expulsion from UCSD.**

The UCSD Library has a helpful tutorial on plagiarism prevention here:

Define <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/assets/elearning/plagiarism/mod1-define-web/story.html>

Prevent <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/assets/elearning/plagiarism/mod2-prevent-web/story.html>

Cite <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/assets/elearning/plagiarism/mod3-cite-web/story.html>

- * **The policies stated above are subject to change.**