Spring 2017

Philosophy 326—001

17th and 18th Century Philosophy

**Professor:**

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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Office Hours : MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

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**Course Information:**

Class Time: MW, 11:00am—12:15pm

Class Location: CCC 126

**Course Description:**

This course will examine some of the most important metaphysical and epistemological questions prevalent during the 17th and 18th century. We will focus on differing conceptions of substance, the limits of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of the self, the relationship between the mind and body, and the notions of causality, space, and time. We will devote the vast majority of our attention to several major figures in this period including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Less time will be spent examining some “minor” figures such as Montaigne, Bacon, Malebranche, Newton, and Reid.

**Texts:**

Rental:

1. *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources (2nd Ed.)*

Ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins

Hackett Publishing

ISBN: 978-0872209787

1. *Philosophical Essays*

Ed. Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber

Hackett Publishing

ISBN: 978-0872200623

1. *Bloomsbury Companion to Leibniz*

Ed. Brandon Look

Bloomsbury Publishing

ISBN: 1472523520

1. *Leibniz*

Nicholas Jolley

Routledge Publishing

ISBN: 0415283388

**Course Goals:**

By carefully examining metaphysics and epistemology in modern philosophy, students will develop critical thinking skills by engaging, analyzing, and evaluating texts in order to write well, speak articulately, and argue persuasively.

**Expectations:**

Students are encouraged to attend every class and remain for the entire time. Students must complete the necessary readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and participation. Students will treat other students with respect. This means, turning off all electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) and addressing their peers in a respectful tone. It is important to note that the nature of this class will inevitably result in disagreements among colleagues; however, it is essential to maintain respect toward one another despite disagreement. Failure to meet any of these expectations could, and probably will negatively influence your final grade.

Additionally, this course will utilize the Desire2Learn online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with D2L regularly to find class updates, submit assignments, check your grades, etc.

**Grading Criteria:**

Late work will never be accepted unless an extension has been granted by Dr. Horn prior to the due date. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Additional prompts will be given out in class for each major assignment.

Final grades will be based upon (1) *two in class exams* worth 30% each, and (2) *one final essay* worth 40%. Assignments turned in late will *not* be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.

(1) Exams will be constituted by several short answer questions.

(2) The final essay must be submitted to the D2L DropBox by Wednesday, May 17, 2017 by 2:30pm. Essays turned in after the deadline will *not* be accepted. The essay should be between 1,250—1,750 words (roughly 5—7 pages). Additional requirements will be provided on the prompt.

Students will be permitted four unexcused absences. Any absence after four will result in a 5% deduction from the overall grade. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class, so if students are late, they will not be counted present for the day.

Final grades in the course will be based on the following scale.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A Range**  **(90—100%)** | **B Range**  **(80—89%)** | **C Range**  **(70—79%)** | **D Range**  **(64—69%)** | **F Range**  **(0—63%)** |
|  | B+ (87—89) | C+ (77—79) | D+ (67—69) | F (<63) |
| A (94—100) | B (84—86) | C (74—76) | D (64—66) |  |
| A- (90—93) | B- (80—83) | C- (70—73) |  |  |

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty could result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from the University.

**Course Schedule:**

**Preface to a Revolution**

January 23 Syllabus/Course Introduction

January 25 Teleology and the Scholastic Tradition

**The Father of Modern Philosophy**

January 30 Descartes, Discourse on Method 1, 2, 5

Descartes, Meditations I—II 25—47

February 1 Descartes, Meditations III—V 47—61

February 6 Descartes, Meditations VI, Objections and Replies 61—92

**The Most Dangerous Philosopher**

February 8 Spinoza, *The Ethics*, Part I 144—155

February 13 Spinoza, *The Ethics*, Part I 155—164

February 15 Spinoza, *The Ethics*, Part II 164—187

February 20 Spinoza, *The Ethics,* Part V 188—195

**The Eclectic Courtier**

February 22 Leibniz, *Primary Truths* 265—268

February 27 Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics* 224—247

March 1 No Class

March 6 Leibniz, *A New System of Nature, Monadology* 269—283

March 8 Exam I

**The Classical Empiricist**

March 13 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* 316—348

March 15 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* 348—377

March 20 No Class—Academic Holiday

March 22 No Class—Academic Holiday

March 27 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* 377—433

Leibniz, *Preface to the New Essays*

**Common Sense Undone**

March 29 Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*,

Preface, Introduction, Part I Section 1—33 438—453

April 3 Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* 454—474

April 5 Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* 475—503

**The Unrelenting Skeptic**

April 10 Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, Introduction, I.4.5—6 517—432

April 12 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* 533—564

April 17 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* 564—600

April 19 Exam II

**The New Revolution**

April 24 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Preface and Introduction 717—729

April 26 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Transcendental Aesthetic 730—737

May 1 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason,* Analytic of Concepts 738—756

May 3 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Analytic of Principles756—783

May 8 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Transcendental Dialectic 783—819

May 10 Make Up Day/Review

*Final Paper Due:*  Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Deadline is 2:30pm*.*

\*The Professor reserves the right to adjust the course schedule to best satisfy the needs of the class.\*