

Spring 2020
Philosophy 326—02C
17th and 18th Century Philosophy

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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Office Location : CCC 418

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Office Hours : MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

<http://charlesjhorn.webstarts.com/index.html>

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 (3rd Ed.)*
Eds. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins
Hackett Publishing
ISBN: 978-1624668050

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.

Critical Thinking is purposeful, reflective reasoning about what conclusions to draw or actions to take. With diligent effort on their part, students will:

1. Recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluation, and constructing reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw or actions to take.
2. Construct reasoning as it applies to philosophical questions and issues.

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 should treat others in the class with respect. This means, turning off all electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.), addressing their peers in a respectful tone, and not eating in class. 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. Students may also be asked to leave the class if students are disrespectful to their colleagues.

Additionally, this course will utilize the Canvas online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with Canvas 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 or a university approved excuse is given. Late work must be complete within one week of returning to the class. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Additionally, this course will utilize the Canvas online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with Canvas regularly to find class updates, submit work, check grades, etc.

Final grades will be based upon (1) *two in class exams* worth 20% each (40% total), (2) *20 reading quizzes administered on Canvas* worth (40% total), and (3) *one final essay* worth 20% (20% total).

- (1) Exams will be constituted by short answer questions.
- (2) Students will have 5 minutes to answer questions on each reading. Reading quizzes can be taken on Canvas at any time during the 48 hours prior the day of the lecture. Since there are *more* than 20 readings, students can earn *more* than the 20% total.
- (3) The final essay must be submitted to Canvas by May 11, 2020 by 10:00am. Essays turned in after the deadline will *not* be accepted. The essay should be between 1,250—1,750 words (5—7 pages). Additional requirements will be provided on the prompt.

Students will be permitted four unexcused absences. There will be a 5% deduction from the final grade for each absence after the permitted four unexcused absences. 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.

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 (<60)
A (94—100)	B (84—86)	C (74—76)	D (60—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 22		Syllabus/Course Introduction Teleology and the Scholastic Tradition	
THE FATHER OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY			
January 27	Q1	Descartes, Discourse on Method 1, 2, 5	25—34
		Descartes, Meditations I—II	35—47
January 29	Q2	Descartes, Meditations III—V	47—61
February 3	Q3	Descartes, Meditations VI, Objections and Replies	61—68, 76—92
THE MOST DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHER			
February 5	Q4	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part I	172—183
February 10	Q5	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part I	183—192
February 12	Q6	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part II	192—215
February 17	Q7	Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part V	216—223
THE ECLECTIC COURTIER			
February 19	Q8	Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i>	293—296
February 24	Q9	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>	252—275
February 26	Q10	Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature, Monadology</i>	297—311
March 2	Q11	Leibniz, <i>Correspondence with Clarke</i>	322—331
March 4		Exam I Review	
March 9		Exam I	
THE CLASSICAL EMPIRICIST			
March 11	Q12	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	346—352
		Leibniz, <i>Preface to the New Essays</i>	463—474
March 16		No Class—Spring Break	
March 18		No Class—Spring Break	
March 23	Q13	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	352—378
March 25	Q14	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	378—406
COMMON SENSE UNDONE			
March 30	Q15	Berkeley, <i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i>	478—493
		Preface, Introduction, Part I Section 1—33	
April 1	Q16	Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous</i>	494—543
THE UNRELENTING SKEPTIC			
April 6	Q17	Hume, <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i> , Introduction, I.4.5—6	563—577
April 8	Q18	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	584—602
April 13	Q19	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	623—638
April 15		Exam II Review	
April 20		Exam II	
THE NEW REVOLUTION			
April 22	Q20	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Preface and Introduction	775—788
April 27	Q21	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic	788—795
April 29	Q22	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Analytic of Concepts, Principles	795—814
May 4	Q23	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Dialectic	846—858
May 6		Final Essay Peer Review/Course Evaluations	
May 11		Final Essay due by 10:00am	