

# Phil 111: History of Philosophy: Early Modern

Professor Eric Watkins  
Office: Ridgeway Academic Complex, Bldg. 1, 0486  
Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9:30 and by appt.

Room: Sequoya 148  
Time: MWF 10:00-10:50  
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This course is about the radical intellectual developments undertaken in the early modern period by Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, and Hume, among others.

## Reading Assignments (subject to adjustment)

M 1-9 Introduction

W 1-11 Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Letter of Ded., Synopsis, and Meditation I (35-43)

F 1-13 Descartes, *Meditations II* (43-47)

M 1-16 No class (MLK Jr. Day)

W 1-18 Descartes, *Meditations III* (47-54)

F 1-20 Descartes, *Meditations III* (47-54)

**First Paper Due**

M 1-23 Descartes, *Meditations IV* (54-58)

W 1-25 Descartes, *Meditation V* (58-61)

F 1-27 Descartes, *Meditation VI* (61-68)

M 1-30 Descartes, *Meditation VI* (61-68)

W 2-1 \*Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy* (selections)

F 2-3 Princess Elizabeth and Descartes, *Correspondence* (93-99)

M 2-6 Malebranche, *The Search After Truth*, VI.2.3, *Elucidation XV* (243-251)

W 2-8 Leibniz, "A New System of the Nature and Communication of Substances" (297-302)

F 2-10 Leibniz, "Primary Truths" (293-296)

M 2-13 Leibniz, "Discourse on Metaphysics" (252-75)

W 2-15 Amo, "On the Apathy of the Human Mind" (332-334)

F 2-17 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book I (346-52)

M 2-20 No class (President's Day)

W 2-22 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book II, Chapters 1-8 (352-67)

F 2-24 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book II, Chapters 12 (370-2) and 23 (389-97)

M 2-27 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book IV, Chapters 1-3 (416-433)

W 3-1 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §§1-3 (579-588)

F 3-3 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §4 (588-594)

M 3-6 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §5 (594-601)

W 3-8 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §7 (602-610)

Lady Shepherd, *An Essay Upon the Relation of Cause and Effect* (687-689)

F 3-10 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §10-11 (623-639)

M 3-13 Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* §12 (639-646)

W 3-15 Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (647-686)

F 3-17 Conclusion

**Second Paper Due**

F 3-24 8:00am-10:59am

**Final Exam**

## **Requirements**

**Eighteen Homework Assignments:** There will be eighteen homework assignments on the assigned readings. (This is indicated by the date being underlined on the Reading Assignments.) The homework questions are available on Canvas and must be completed **prior to** the class for which the reading was assigned. Together, they will be worth 20% of the final grade. The two lowest homework grades will be dropped.

**Two Papers:** Students must write two medium length papers (4-5 pages). Each paper is worth 20% of the final grade. The paper prompts will be posted on Canvas.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is worth 30% of the final grade. It will be cumulative.

**Participation:** Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned reading in class. Participation is worth 10% of the final grade. (If students are not participating in class as much as they would like, they can send me an email with questions or comments on the reading prior to the class in which the reading is to be discussed.)

**Late Paper Policy:** Papers turned in late will be penalized one +/- grade per day, unless evidence is presented of a valid excuse in a timely manner (e.g., a note from the doctor, the dean, etc.).

## **Text**

Ariew, Roger and Watkins, Eric, *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Texts*, third edition (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2019).

The text is available in the UCSD bookstore. All readings listed on the syllabus will be from this anthology, except where noted by \*. (These texts will be provided on Canvas.)

## **Other Information**

1. Honor Code. The Academic Honor Code must be observed in this course. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

2. If accommodations are needed for any reason, please notify me as soon as possible. Also, please do not attend classes if you are feeling ill. In case of illness, quarantine, other Covid-related reasons, or a medical or family emergency that may prevent you from attending class, please send me an email so that I am aware of your situation.