

Modern Philosophy

PHIL 3302
CRN 25138

T/TH
12:15-1:30

IRBY 316



Elisabeth
of Bohemia

CONTACT

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The modern period in Western philosophy (approx. 1600-1800) was a rich, fascinating period of philosophical development. In many ways, the questions these philosophers raised and answers they developed set the course for the western philosophical tradition, a tradition that still informs how we understand philosophical questions and problems today.

This course introduces students to influential philosophers and ideas of the modern period. We will explore a wide variety of work, including metaphysics, epistemology, political philosophy, and ethics. In order to gain an appreciation for the ongoing philosophical conversation within its historical context, we will proceed chronologically, paying close attention to primary texts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this class, students can expect to:

- ◆ Develop a general understanding of many important philosophical issues and conversations during the 17th and 18th centuries
- ◆ Be able to articulate specific views from key philosophers of the time
- ◆ Improve the ability to read and understand historical philosophical texts, reformulate arguments, and critically evaluate those arguments



René Descartes

COURSE TEXTS

- ◆ *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, 2nd Edition. (2009). Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, eds. Hackett Publishing Company.
- ◆ *From Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy*. (2012). Garrett Thompson. Waveland Press, Inc.
- ◆ *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*. (1994). Margaret Atherton, ed. Hackett Publishing Company.

GRADING SCHEME

◆ Attendance/Participation	5%
◆ Reading Journals	25%
◆ Essay	25%
◆ Exams (3)	45%



Mary Astell

*“Two things awe me most, the starry sky
above me and the moral law within me.”*
— Immanuel Kant

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION (5 %)

A lot of the work for this course happens *in class*. Students who do not attend class regularly will not benefit from the course as much as those who do attend regularly. Attendance and active participation in the class are, therefore, required.

Leibniz's house,
Hanover, Germany

Attendance: Each student may take up to 2 absences for any reason. **Absences in excess of 2 will result in a deduction of 1% from your overall grade per absence, with no upper bound.** In cases of an emergency, sickness, death in the family, etc., a student may receive additional excused absences provided that the student notifies me right away and provides appropriate documentation.

Distracting behavior such as eating, chronic tardiness, or sleeping in class may also result in your dismissal from the class for the day, without credit for attendance.

Participation: Participation refers to your active involvement in the class by being prepared for class and engaging in classroom discussion. Participation grades will be given as follows:

A (100%): participates weekly in class, questions and comments demonstrate familiarity with course readings

B (85%): participates more than half of the weeks in class (at least 8 weeks)

C (75%): participates in less than half of the weeks in class (fewer than 8 weeks)

CLASSROOM CULTURE STATEMENT

This course is designed to encourage you to think deeply about controversial issues, and as we go along you will almost certainly encounter viewpoints that challenge your own beliefs. I encourage you to view these challenges as opportunities to learn about perspectives that may differ widely from your own and to practice the skill of interacting respectfully and sympathetically with someone, despite the fact that you may strongly disagree with their point of view. Although debate and critical analysis are encouraged, it should be clear that we will not discriminate against or criticize members of this classroom community based on gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or religion. Everyone is welcome here.

READING JOURNALS (25 %)

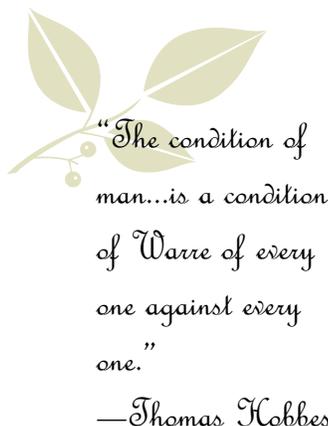
One of the objectives of this course is to help you improve your skill at reading primary texts in philosophy. **Philosophy texts are challenging, and you should expect to read each reading several times.** As you progress throughout the course readings, you will be required to keep a reading journal. Your journal should include a reading log, your reading notes, critical remarks, and questions that arise as you go along.

There are 250 points allotted to reading journals. Journal entries will be scored out of 15 points, with 15/15 for excellent/insightful analysis; 12/15 for demonstrating sufficient understanding, and 9/15 for adequate completion. Inadequate journal submissions will be returned to the student with no credit given. You may turn in one reading journal per primary text reading, with no upper limit. However, the maximum grade you can receive on the reading journals is 250 total points.

Reading journals will be collected each Tuesday for the previous week and should be submitted at the beginning of class. *No make-up journal entries will be accepted.* Keep on top of these, and you will find that they are an easy way to boost your grade!



George Berkeley



ESSAY (25 %)

Your essay provides the opportunity for you to do in-depth research on one of the course topics.

A rough draft of the essay will be due two weeks before your final draft is due. I will be providing detailed comments on your rough draft so that you can benefit from those as you write your final draft. 20% of your essay grade will come from submitting a complete rough draft, 80% from your grade on the final draft.

All essays should be typed, 11 or 12 point font (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman), 1-inch margins. You may use whatever citation style you like, as long as you are consistent. All essays must be submitted electronically on Blackboard (email and hard copy will not be accepted). Further instructions are available on Blackboard

TESTS (45 %)

There will be three take-home essay exams. The tests will ask you to explain important concepts, compare and contrast some of the theories we will discuss, and to critically engage the course material. Each exam will be worth 15% of your grade. The third exam (final) is not cumulative.

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work will receive one letter-grade reduction per day late up to 5 calendar days after the assignment is due. After 5 days, you will not be able to turn in your work for credit. I make exceptions to this policy if you have an emergency, but **to be considered for an exemption it is your responsibility to notify me in advance.**



David Hume

SCHEDULE

Each reading should be completed before the beginning of class on the date assigned. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

		<p><i>Th 1/10</i> Course Introduction— From Medieval to Modern Philosophy, Syllabus Review</p>
Week 1:	<p><i>T 1/15: Francis Bacon</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 1-8, p. 116-125; [MP] p. 16-20</p>	<p><i>Th 1/17: René Descartes, The Method of Doubt and the Cogito, (Meditations I & II)</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 14-25; [MP] p. 35-46</p>
Week 2:	<p><i>T 1/22: René Descartes, God & Clear and Distinct Ideas (Meditations III & IV);</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 26-36; [MP] p. 47-61</p>	<p><i>Th 1/24: René Descartes, Mind and Body, Correspondence of Princess Elisabeth (Meditations V & VI); rationality of animals; Margaret Cavendish</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 37-51; [MP] p. 61-68; [WP] p. 9-17</p>
Week 3:	<p><i>T 1/29: Early Modern French Philosophy</i></p> <p>Read: [MP] p. 4-15, 106-109; and “Early Modern French Philosophy” on Blackboard</p>	<p><i>Th 1/31: Thomas Hobbes</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 129-144; [MP] <i>Leviathan</i> excerpts on Blackboard</p>
Week 4:	<p><i>T 2/5: Baruch Spinoza, Bio, God & substance</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 52-64; [MP] p. 144-149</p>	<p><i>Th 2/7: Spinoza, The Nature of the Mind</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 65-73; [MP] p. 164-181</p>
Week 5:	<p><i>T 2/12: Spinoza, Ethics & Free Will</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 74-79; [MP] p. 181-195</p>	<p><i>Th 2/14: Leibniz, Bio, Truth and Reason</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 80-91; [MP] p. 224-233 & p. 265-268;</p> <p>Take-Home Test #1 Due on Blackboard</p>
Week 6:	<p><i>T 2/19: Leibniz, Monads</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 92-100; [MP] p. 275-283</p>	<p><i>Th 2/21: Leibniz, God and space; Damaris Cudworth, Lady Masham</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 101-108; [MP] p. 297-303; [WP] p. 77-91 (focus on VI)</p>
Week 7:	<p><i>T 2/26: Locke, Bio, Ideas and qualities</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 145-170; [MP] p. 316-340 (Optional additional reading from WP: Catherine Trotter Cockburn)</p>	<p><i>Th 2/28: Locke, complex ideas, identity, knowledge of God and other things</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 161-170; [MP] p. 367-377, 405-415</p>
Week 8:	<p><i>T 3/5: Locke, morality and politics</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 183-199, Locke 2.27.1-29</p>	<p><i>Th 3/7: George Berkeley, The Denial of Matter</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 200-215; [MP] p. 454-475</p>

SCHEDULE

Each reading should be completed before the beginning of class on the date assigned. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Week 9:	<p><i>3/12: Berkeley, Ideas in the mind of God</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 216-225; [MP] p. 475-503</p>	<p><i>3/14: Race and Modern Philosophy</i></p> <p>Read: Justin E. H. Smith on Anton Wilhelm Amo excerpts on Blackboard</p> <p>Take-Home Test #2 Due on Blackboard</p>
Week 10:	<p>3/17-3/24</p> <p>Spring Break Week—No Class!</p>	
Week 11:	<p><i>T 3/26 Term Paper Instructions; Mary Astell, A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i></p> <p>Read: Excerpts on Blackboard</p>	<p><i>Th 3/28 Hume, Bio, Ideas and Impressions</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 226-236; [MP] p. 509-511; 533-542</p> <p>Topic Submissions Due</p>
Week 12:	<p><i>T 4/2: Hume, Causation</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 237-250; [MP] p. 542-564</p>	<p><i>Th 4/4: Hume, Identity</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 251-258; [MP] p. 525-532</p>
Week 13:	<p><i>T 4/9: Hume on the rationality of animals and on miracles</i></p> <p>Read: [MP] p. 575-586</p> <p>Rough Draft of Essay Due</p>	<p><i>Th 4/11 Kant, Introduction</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 298-300; [MP] <i>Prolegomena</i>, p. 661-672</p>
Week 14:	<p><i>T 4/16: Kant, The Transcendental Aesthetic</i></p> <p>Read [BK] p. 301-308; [MP] Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, p. 724-742</p>	<p><i>Th 4/18: Kant, The Analytic of Concepts</i></p> <p>Read: [BK] p. 309-318; [MP] Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, p. 742-751</p>
Week 15:	<p><i>T 4/23: Kant, The Transcendental Dialectic</i></p> <p>[BK] p. 333-346; [MP] Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, p. 783-800</p> <p>Final Draft of Essay Due</p>	<p><i>Th 4/25: Kant, The Ideal of Pure Reason</i></p> <p>Read: [MP] p. 819-835</p>
Week 16:	<p>Take-Home Third Exam Due: Thursday, May 2, 11am on Blackboard</p>	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read the following information carefully. These notifications are required by the UCA administration to appear on all UCA course syllabi.

◇ **Academic Integrity Statement:**

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

◇ **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Disability Resource Center, 450-3613.

◇ **Building Emergency Plan:**

An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

◇ **Title IX Disclosure:**

If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs, and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on the specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. *Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.

◇ **Student Handbook:**

Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with all policies in the [Student Handbook](#), especially the Academic Policies and the Sexual Harassment Policy.