

History of Modern Philosophy (Phil 385)

Fall 2012

Prof. W. Blattner

Schedule

Date	Author	Topic	Reading
8/29	<i>The Background of Modern Philosophy: Reformation, Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment</i>		
9/3	No Class – Labor Day		
9/5	Descartes & Kant	<i>Epistemic Responsibility and the Scientific Revolution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, Discourse on Method, Pts. 1 & 2 (MP, pp. 25–33) • Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (<i>online</i>)
9/10	Descartes	Skepticism & the <i>Cogito</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>, Preface, Synopsis, Med. 1 & first 3 ¶’s of Med. 2 (MP, pp. 35–43)
9/12		<i>Res Cogitans</i> & Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med. 2 & first 2 ¶’s Med. 3 (MP, 43–47) • <i>Fourth Objections</i> (Hobbes), final ¶ (MP, p. 86) and <i>Fourth Replies</i>, final two ¶’s (MP, p. 92) • From <i>Seventh Objections and Replies</i> (Bourdin) (handout)
9/17		God, Truth, and Free Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediations 3–4 (MP, pp. 47–58) • From <i>First Objections and Replies</i> (Caterus) (handout)
9/19		Geometry, Sensations, Mind, & Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditations 5–6 (MP, pp. 58–68)
9/24	Malebranche, Spinoza, & Leibniz	<i>Mind & Body</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malebranche, <i>The Search After Truth</i>, Book VI, Pt II, Ch 3 and Elucidation 15 (MP, pp. 212–223) • Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i>, Pt II, through Prop 7 (MP, pp. 164–167) • Leibniz, <i>A New System</i> (MP, pp. 269–274)
9/26	Galileo, Locke, & Berkeley	<i>Primary & Secondary Qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galileo, Excerpts from <i>The Assayer</i> (MP, pp. 21–24) • Locke, <i>Essay</i>, Book II, ch. viii (MP, pp. 332–337) • Berkeley, <i>Principles</i>, Pt. I, §§9–15 (MP, pp. 448–450)
10/1	Hume	Empiricism & the Senses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>, §§1–3 (MP, pp. 533–542)
10/3		Inductive Skepticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enquiry</i>, §§4–6 (MP, pp. 542–556)
10/8	No Class – Columbus Day		
10/10		Causality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enquiry</i>, §7 (MP, pp. 556–564)
10/15		Freedom & Determinism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enquiry</i>, §8 (MP, pp. 564–575)

10/17	Locke & Hume	Personal Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>Essay</i>, Bk II, ch. 27 (MP, pp. 367–377) • Hume, <i>Treatise</i>, Bk I, Part iv, Sect 6 & excerpts from the Appendix (MP, pp. 525–532)
10/22	Kant	Analysis, Synthesis, and Metaphysics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Come Forward as a Science</i>, Preface & Preamble (MP, pp. 661–672)
10/24		Intuitions, Concepts, and Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prolegomena</i>, Part I (MP, pp. 673–679)
10/29		Transcendental Idealism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prolegomena</i>, Part II (MP, pp. 679–695)
10/31		Freedom, the Soul, & the Critique of Metaphysics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prolegomena</i>, Part III & Conclusion (MP, pp. 695–716)
11/5	Hobbes	State of Nature	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , §§xiii-xvi
11/7		The Sovereign & Commonwealth	<i>Leviathan</i> , §§xvii-xxii
11/12	Locke	Natural Rights	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. I-VI
11/14		Limited Government	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. VII-XII, XIX
11/19	Kant	The Good Will & Duty	<i>Grounding</i> , Preface & First Section
11/21	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Wednesday</i>		
11/26		The Categorical Imperative	<i>Grounding</i> , Second Section
11/28		Morality & Practical Reason	<i>Grounding</i> , Third Section
12/3		The Metaphysics of Morals & God	"
12/5	Final Session	The Aftermath of Early Modern Philosophy	
<i>Schedule of Assignments Due</i>			
1	First Paper	on Descartes	due 10/10 – prompts posted by 9/26
2	Second Paper	on Hume and Kant	due 11/14 – prompts posted by 10/31
3	Third Paper	on moral and political philosophy	due 12/5 – prompts posted by 11/19
4	Final Exam		Friday, 12/14 9–11 AM, location TBD