



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy

PHIL 284 - FALL 2020

Great Works: Modern

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Nikolaj Zunic
Office: SH 2003 [Sweeney Hall]
Phone: 519-884-8111 ext. 28229
Office Hours: By appointment only. Contact the professor to schedule a personal meeting.
Email: nzunic@uwaterloo.ca

The best and most effective way of contacting the professor is by e-mail.

E-mail messages will normally be answered within 24 hours.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances regarding the COVID-19 preventative measures in place at the university, the professor will not have regular access to his office or to his office phone. Therefore, please do not leave messages by phone at the number given above.

All office hours will be conducted remotely by means of Skype, Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

COURSE FORMAT

As everyone is undoubtedly aware, the University made the decision to have all courses in the Fall Term 2020 be delivered remotely, rather than in person or face-to-face, because of the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus. This course will, therefore, in accordance with these official regulations, be delivered entirely remotely, that is, by means of the Internet.

We will be relying on LEARN (D2L or Desire to Learn) as the primary means in the delivery of the course. Everything to do with this course will be conducted through LEARN. Therefore, students must have access to LEARN.

The professor will post all relevant course material – e.g. the course outline, assignments, links, announcements – to the LEARN site. However, e-mail will also be a mode of communication between the professor and students.

The course will be divided into four components:

1. Lectures
 2. Readings
 3. Discussions
 4. Assignments
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1. Lectures

All lectures will be recorded by the professor and posted to LEARN in the **Content** section.

The mode of content delivery in this course will be entirely asynchronous (= there is no set time to listen to and view lectures) instead of synchronous (= when a scheduled time is set for live instruction). All the lectures will be recorded, and students will have the opportunity to listen to the lectures on their own time.

Each recorded lecture will be either an audio recording or a narrated PowerPoint presentation. The video lecture will not be the normal mode of content delivery.

Each lecture will be 20-30 minutes in duration.

There will be two audio or MP4 files posted regularly each week, one on Mondays and the second on Wednesdays, by noon at the latest. If for some reason the professor will be late in posting a lecture on a Monday or Wednesday, he will announce this in LEARN.

The lectures will focus on the important concepts from the prescribed readings and as such will be concise and targeted.

2. Readings

Students are required to read the prescribed books/texts/readings in accordance with the schedule contained in this course outline.

The readings for which students are responsible for studying are given in a weekly schedule.

Two of the required books/texts/readings – Montaigne's *Apology for Raymond Sebond* and *The Essential Galileo* - may be purchased at the University of Waterloo Bookstore or through some other seller, such as Amazon. The majority of readings can be accessed online at the links provided in the schedule of readings. However, if students wish, they may purchase physical copies of the books instead of reading them online.

The readings play a pivotal part of this course, as all the lectures and assignments will deal with them centrally.

It is advisable that students follow the readings schedule and diligently do the prescribed readings.

3. *Discussions*

Each week forums for discussion on the week's main topics will be open for student engagement on LEARN.

- In LEARN go to **Connect → Discussions**.

The professor will participate in the discussions on Friday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Participation in the discussions is optional and will not constitute any part of the student's final grade.

The purpose of the discussion forums is to allow students to dialogue with each other, to pose and answer questions related to the week's topics, and to facilitate the comprehension of course material. In short, it is an opportunity for students to ask questions and to offer and receive responses.

4. *Assignments*

There are four assignments in this course. The entirety of each student's final grade will be based on these four assignments.

Each assignment will be an argumentative essay.

A very good resource to consult in order to understand how to write an effective philosophy paper is the following website:

https://philosophy.fas.harvard.edu/files/phildept/files/brief_guide_to_writing_philosophy_paper.pdf

**Please read through this document on how to write a philosophy paper before the first essay is assigned.*

Each essay should be 4-5 double-spaced pages (1200-1500 words). The essays will be based on topics corresponding to relevant sections of the course and thus will be specific to the readings

that we are covering.

The instructions and topics for each essay assignment will be posted to LEARN approximately 3 weeks before the due date.

All essay assignments must be submitted to LEARN in the Dropbox section.

- In LEARN go to **Submit → Dropbox**.

Each essay will also be submitted to Turnitin, a program that scans essays for academic integrity infractions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the main ideas and thinkers of modern philosophy. This is a distinctive period of philosophical activity because it breaks away from the ancient and medieval models and traditions and ushers in new perspectives and orientations. Chronologically, we can situate the modern period from the mid-16th century, around the time of The Protestant Reformation, and ending with the French Revolution at the close of the 18th century. The term “modern” is derived etymologically from the Latin word “*modo*” meaning “just now” or “presently”. It suggests a novel consciousness that the era which modern thinkers inhabited was something unique and special. It was a recognition that civilization was moving in new directions and staking new territory, something quite unprecedented from anything in the past.

The course is divided into four thematic units.

The first theme is “Knowledge”. In this section we will examine Montaigne’s skepticism, Descartes’ quest for certainty, Locke’s theory of ideas, and Hume’s epistemology.

The second theme is “Physics”. Modern philosophy was deeply interested in the natural universe, but it challenged the prevailing ancient Greek natural philosophy, established by Aristotle, and replaced it with a new kind of science. Francis Bacon emphasized the importance of induction for the scientific method. Consequently, we will study some parts of Bacon’s work *The New Organon*. Of chief importance were the scientific contributions of Galileo Galilei who advanced the Copernican theory of heliocentrism as well as the application of mathematics to nature. We will read some excerpts from Galileo’s book *Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems* and will explore the trial that Galileo was subjected to by the Inquisition to see what the real facts were, given the notoriety that this event has garnered for the history of science.

The third theme is “Metaphysics”. Here we will discuss Leibniz’s metaphysics, particularly his monadology, and will cover Berkeley’s version of absolute idealism.

The fourth and final theme is “Political Philosophy”. Modern thinkers made significant and lasting contributions to political thought, unlike their pre-modern predecessors. Three pivotal thinkers will be discussed in this regard: Machiavelli’s classic text, *The Prince*; Locke’s concept of civil government; and Rousseau’s social contract theory, especially his notion of the general will.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to fulfill the following pedagogical objectives:

- To examine prominent ideas in early modern philosophy.
- To be introduced to the main philosophical thinkers of the modern period.
- To recognize how modern philosophical ideas shaped the Western world to the present.
- To appreciate the contributions of modern philosophers to intellectual history.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are two books which students are required to purchase or acquire for this course. They may be purchased at the University of Waterloo Bookstore or through some other book seller, such as Amazon. The two books are:

1. Michel de Montaigne, *An Apology for Raymond Sebond*, translated by Roger Ariew and Marjorie Grene. Hackett: Indianapolis, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-87220-679-3
2. Galileo Galilei, *The Essential Galileo*, edited and translated by Maurice A. Finocchiaro. Hackett: Indianapolis, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-87220-937-4

The remaining books/texts/readings for this course can be found on the Internet.

The main website we will be using is the following:

Some Texts from Early Modern Philosophy: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>

The weblinks to the specific readings are given in the schedule provided below.

However, if you wish to purchase hard/physical copies of the texts instead, here is a list of recommended editions:

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, translated by Donald A. Cress. Hackett:

Indianapolis, 1993. ISBN 978-0-87220-192-7

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Kenneth P. Winkler. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1996. ISBN 978-0-87220-216-0

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, edited by C. B. Macpherson. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1980. ISBN 978-0-915144-86-0

David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*. Penguin: New York, 1969.

Francis Bacon, *The New Organon*, edited by Lisa Jardine and Michael Silverthorne. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-521-56483-2

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and Other Essays*, translated by Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1991. ISBN 978-0-87220-132-3

George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, edited by Robert M. Adams. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1979. ISBN 978-0-915144-61-7

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, translated by David Wootton. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1995. ISBN 978-0-87220-316-7

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, translated by Donald A. Cress. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1988. ISBN 978-0-87220-068-5

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There are four written assignments for this course.

Each essay will be similar in focus and scope. Each will deal with one of the four themes covered in this course.

The nature of each essay will be argumentative. What this means is that the professor will provide a selection of questions or topics to choose from and students will have to argue or defend a position by using logical reasoning and evidence from the texts and lectures. It is crucial that students learn philosophy by learning how to reason and argue their positions. Therefore, the essay assignments will aim to foster such argumentative and logical reasoning skills.

The detailed instructions for each assignment as well as the essay topics will be posted to LEARN approximately 3 weeks before the due date.

This course uses the Turnitin software, so all essays will be checked for plagiarism.

There is no final exam in this course.

The breakdown of the assignments with their corresponding due dates and weightings is given in the table below:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	VALUE
1. Essay #1	October 7 at 9:00 pm	25%
2. Essay #2	November 4 at 9:00 pm	25%
3. Essay #3	November 18 at 9:00 pm	25%
4. Essay #4	December 11 at 9:00 pm	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a weekly schedule for this course. It lists the readings that students are responsible to study each week. The lectures, which will be posted to LEARN, will relate to the readings as they are listed in this schedule.

Please consult this schedule throughout the fall term.

Note: The numbers in parentheses after the titles of the books/texts are the dates when the book/text was written or published.

WEEK 1: September 8-11

Introduction to the course

PART 1: KNOWLEDGE

WEEK 2: September 14-18

Topic: Michel de Montaigne's Skepticism

Readings: Michel de Montaigne, *An Apology for Raymond Sebond* (1575-1576, 1578-1580)

WEEK 3: September 21-25

Topic: René Descartes's Response to Skepticism

Readings: René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641)

Meditations 1-4:

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1641_1.pdf

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1641_2.pdf

WEEK 4: September 28-October 2

Topic: John Locke's Ideas

Readings: John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690)

Book One:

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1690book1.pdf>

Book Two, Chapters i-xii:

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1690book2_1.pdf

WEEK 5: October 5-9

Topic: David Hume on Ideas and Impressions

Readings: David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (1739-40)

Book One: The Understanding

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1739book1.pdf>

[The original text can be found here:

<https://davidhume.org/texts/t/1/full>]

ESSAY #1 is due on Wednesday, October 7 at 9:00 pm.

WEEK 6: October 12-16

READING WEEK

**There is no course activity from October 10 to October 18.*

PART 2: PHYSICS

WEEK 7: October 19-23

Topic: Francis Bacon's Principle of Induction

Readings: Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum (The New Organon)* (1620)

Book 1:

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bacon1620part1.pdf>

WEEK 8: October 26-30

Topics: Galileo Galilei's New Science

Readings: Galileo Galilei, *The Essential Galileo*, Chapter 8, "Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems" (1632), pp. 190-271

PART 3: METAPHYSICS

WEEK 9: November 2-6

Topic: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz's Metaphysics

Readings: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz,

Discourse on Metaphysics (1686)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1686d.pdf>

The Principles of Philosophy Known as Monadology (1714)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1714b.pdf>

ESSAY #2 is due on Wednesday, November 4 at 9:00 pm.

WEEK 10: November 9-13

Topic: George Berkeley's Idealism:

Readings: George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous in opposition to Sceptics and Atheists* (1713)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1713.pdf>

PART 4: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

WEEK 11: November 16-20

Topic: Niccolò Machiavelli's Prince

Readings: Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1532)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/machiavelli1532.pdf>

Essay #3 is due on Wednesday, November 18 at 9:00 pm.

WEEK 12: November 23-27

Topic: John Locke on Civil Government

Readings: John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1689)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1689a.pdf>

WEEK 13: November 30 – December 4

Topic: Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the General Will

Readings: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (1762)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/rousseau1762.pdf>

The last day of lectures for the fall term is December 7.

Essay #4 is due on Friday, December 11 at 9:00 pm.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8: Beginning of classes

October 10-18: Reading Week: No lectures or course activity

December 7: End of classes

December 9-23: Exam period [Please note that this course does not have a final exam]

COURSE POLICIES

Lateness Penalty: The penalty for late assignments is 3% deducted from the grade of the paper for each day that the paper is late.

Absolute Deadline: The maximum allowable amount of time for submitting essays beyond the due date is one week.

Illness: If a student is unable to participate in the course because of an illness, the student must complete a Verification of Illness form and report the illness to the instructor so that appropriate measures or accommodations made be made. For more information, please visit the following webpage: <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/current-students/accommodation-due-to-illness>

CORRESPONDENCE

As indicated at the beginning of this document, the best way to contact the professor is by e-mail at nzunic@uwaterloo.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course feel free to contact the professor.

When you write to the professor please be sure to indicate your name and the course that you are enrolled in.

Use formal language and proper grammar in your correspondence.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload_file/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCapproved.pdf. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term, www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about

their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.