



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy

PHIL 284 – FALL 2021

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 Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

COURSE FORMAT

As everyone is undoubtedly aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has upset the normal routines of life over the last year and a half. Unfortunately, we are not yet back to normal. For the Fall Term 2021, the University has decided to open up its operations slightly, but is still keeping most of the precautions and restrictions in place that have dominated academic life over the last year. This course will, therefore, in accordance with these official regulations, be delivered entirely remotely, that is, by means of the Internet. To be clear, there will be no in-person or in-class component to this course.

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. Visit the following website to sign in to LEARN:

<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

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**
-

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 scheduled 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 a narrated PowerPoint presentation.

Each lecture will be 40-50 minutes in duration.

There will be two 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 bookseller, 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. What this means is that the professor will answer any questions once per week on Friday mornings. To be clear, this is not a “live” event.

If you wish the professor to address any concerns or questions please make your posts to this site by Friday morning at 10 am. Posts that are made after 12 pm on Friday will be answered the following Friday morning.

These discussions are not intended to be solely a forum for exchanges between students and the professor. Instead, they are mainly to be a site where students can discuss course material among themselves. The professor's involvement here is marginal.

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.

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

Please be aware that if you have a question or problem that requires an immediate reply from the professor, it is best to send him an email, instead of posing a question on the Discussion boards. This is especially the case if the issue is specific to you instead of being something that

applies generically to all students in the course.

The professor checks his emails daily and will reply to emails promptly, whereas he checks the Discussion boards once or twice per week. Questions or concerns posed in the Discussion boards will take longer to be answered by the professor.

4. Assignments

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

Each assignment will be an argumentative essay. For an explanation of how to compose an argumentative essay in philosophy please see the following website:

<https://philosophy.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/Writing-a-Philosophy-Paper-Paul-Raymont-utoronto.pdf>

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

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

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

The first two essays should be 4-6 double-spaced pages (1200-1800 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 third, final essay will be longer in length and will be more encompassing of the course content and will be between 6-9 double-spaced pages (1800-2700 words)

Detailed instructions and topics for each essay assignment will be posted to LEARN approximately 3 weeks before the respective due dates.

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

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

Each essay will also be checked by 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 bookseller, such as Amazon. The two books are:

1. Michel de Montaigne. *An Apology for Raymond Sebond*. Translated by Roger Ariew and Marjorie Grene. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-87220-679-3
2. Galileo Galilei. *The Essential Galileo*. Edited and translated by Maurice A. Finocchiaro. Indianapolis: Hackett, 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. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993. ISBN 978-0-87220-192-7

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

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

David Hume. *Treatise of Human Nature*. New York: Penguin, 1969. ISBN 978-0140432442

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. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1991. ISBN 978-0-87220-132-3

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

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

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There are three written assignments for this course.

The first two essays will be 4-6 pages in length. The first essay will deal with Part 1, “Knowledge,” and the second essay will deal with Parts 2 and 3 of the course—“Physics” and “Metaphysics” respectively.

The third essay will be longer and more extensive than the first two essays, namely, 6-9 pages in length. It will deal principally with Part 4, “Political Philosophy,” but will also involve the other parts of the course as well (i.e., Parts 1-3). As such, the third essay will be more comprehensive in scope.

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 respective due dates.

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 6 at 9:00 pm EST	30%
2. Essay #2	November 10 at 9:00 pm EST	30%
3. Essay #3	December 8 at 9:00 pm EST	40%

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

Introduction to the course
Please watch the introduction video

PART 1: KNOWLEDGE

WEEK 2: September 13-17

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

WEEK 3: September 20-24

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 27-October 1

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 4-8

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 6 at 9:00 pm EST.

WEEK 6: October 11-15

READING WEEK

**There is no course activity from October 9 to October 17.*

PART 2: PHYSICS

WEEK 7: October 18-22

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 25-29

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 1-5

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>

WEEK 10: November 8-12

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>

ESSAY #2 is due on Wednesday, November 10 at 9:00 pm EST.

PART 4: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

WEEK 11: November 15-19

Topic: Niccolò Machiavelli's Prince

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

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

WEEK 12: November 22-26

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 29 – December 3

Topic: Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the General Will

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

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

WEEK 14: December 6

Topic: Continuation of discussion of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's political philosophy

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

For the week of December 6-10 there will be only one lecture.

Essay #3 is due on Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00 pm EST.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8: Beginning of classes

October 9-17: 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. For example, if the paper is due on October 6, the last possible date on which it will be accepted is October 13. Please bear in mind that late penalties are still applied for papers submitted past the due date—in this example between October 6 and 13.

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>

Assignment Feedback: Essays will normally be returned to students graded and with feedback two weeks after the submission deadline.

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.

The professor is more than happy to answer any questions or to address any concerns that are relevant to the course.

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.

Please be aware that rude, impolite, or uncivil communication, whether in emails or other media, will not be answered and may be reported to the Associate Dean for disciplinary action under Policy 71- *Student Discipline*.

(<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>)

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.