

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy**

Syllabus

Winter Term 2020

Course: PHIL 284: Great Works: Modern: Section 001

Instructor: Professor Nikolaj Zunic

Class Times: 2:30 pm – 3:50 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays

Class Location: SJ1 3016

Office: SH 2003 [Sweeney Hall on the St. Jerome's campus]

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:30 am – 10:00 am and 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm;
and by appointment.

Required Texts and Readings

There are two books which students are expected to purchase/acquire for this course:

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

Both books can be purchased at the UW Bookstore.

The remaining readings for this course can be found on the internet.

The main website we will be consulting is the following:

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

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

However, if you wish to purchase hard copies of the texts, 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 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 departs from the ancient and medieval schools 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 its end with the French Revolution at the close of the 18th century, when yet again different currents arose in European society. 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 accentuates a recognition that western 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 exploring 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, time permitting, will also discuss 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 in 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.

Format of the Course

This is a lecture course and as such the professor will discuss the material contained in the readings and will expand on the subject-matter in his lectures. However, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and to participate in class discussions.

Objectives

- To examine prominent ideas in early modern philosophy.
- To be introduced to the main philosophical thinkers and writings 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.

Schedule

The following is a schedule of the classes for this course. The readings which will be discussed in each class are listed. Students are strongly advised to read the prescribed material before each class so that the lectures are more readily understood and pertinent questions may be posed.

Note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

Knowledge

- January 6: Introduction to the course.
Michel de Montaigne's Skepticism:
Apology for Raymond Sebond (1575-76, 1578-80)
- January 8: Montaigne (continued)
- January 13: Montaigne (continued)
- January 15: René Descartes' Response:
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
- January 20: Descartes (continued)
- January 22: John Locke's Ideas:
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
- January 27: Locke (continued)
- January 29: David Hume on Ideas and Impressions:
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:
<http://www.davidhume.org/texts/thn.html>]
- February 3: Hume (continued)
- February 5: **TEST #1**

Physics

- February 10: Francis Bacon's Principle of Induction:
Novum Organum (The New Organon) (1620)
Book 1:
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bacon1620part1.pdf>
- February 12: Bacon (continued)
- February 17 – 21: READING WEEK (No classes)
- February 24: Galileo Galilei's New Science:
Chapter 8: *Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems* (1632), pp. 190-271
ESSAY #1 DUE
- February 26: Galileo (continued)

Metaphysics

- March 2: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz's metaphysics:
Discourse on Metaphysics (1686)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1686d.pdf>
- March 4: Leibniz (continued)
- March 9: Leibniz's monadology:
The Principles of Philosophy Known as Monadology (1714)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1714b.pdf>
- March 11: George Berkeley's Idealism:
Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous in opposition to Sceptics and Atheists
(1713)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1713.pdf>
- March 16: Berkeley (continued)
- March 18: **TEST #2**

Political Philosophy

- March 23: Niccolò Machiavelli's Prince:
The Prince (1532)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/machiavelli1532.pdf>
- March 25: John Locke on Civil Government:
Second Treatise of Government (1689)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1689a.pdf>

- March 30: Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the General Will:
The Social Contract (1762)
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/rousseau1762.pdf>
- April 1: Last class. Review of term. Discussion of final exam.
ESSAY #2 DUE
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Assignments

1. **Tests:** There will be two in-class tests based on the content of the readings and lectures. The tests will not only assess one's understanding of the course material, but will also be an opportunity for each student to express his or her own positions and perspectives on the issues discussed in the course. The format for each test will be two questions which will require reflective, essay responses. Each test is worth 15% of the final grade.
 2. **Essays:** There will be two essays assigned in this course. Each essay is worth 20% of the final grade and is expected to be 5 – 8 double-spaced pages in length. The instructions for these essay assignments will be explained in detail in class.
 3. **Final Examination:** A comprehensive examination that will assess your understanding of the ideas and doctrines studied in the course which will take place during the normal university exam period at the end of the term. The exam is worth 30% of the final grade.
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Grading Scheme

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE – DATE SCHEDULED	VALUE
Test #1	February 5, 2020	15%
Test #2	March 18, 2020	15%
Essay #1	February 24, 2020	20%
Essay #2	April 1, 2020	20%
Final Examination	Scheduled during university exam period: April 8-25, 2020	30%

Course Policies

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend class regularly.
2. **CLASS NOTES:** It is crucial to take complete notes in class. It is the student's responsibility to record relevant and important information which is discussed in class. Students will be assessed on the lecture material which may not necessarily be contained in the readings. Furthermore, the professor's lectures will not be made available for copying. If you are absent from class please contact a classmate for the lecture notes.
3. **DUE DATES:** The essays are due at the beginning of class on the dates given above.
4. **LATENESS PENALTY:** The penalty for late assignments is 3% deducted from the grade of the paper for each weekday that the paper is late.
5. **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE:** The maximum allowable amount of time for submitting essays beyond the due date is one week.
6. **NO MAKE-UPS/ALTERNATIVE TESTS:** The tests must be written when they are originally administered in class. No make-up or alternative tests will be permitted. The only exception to this rule will be if a student misses a test because of a medical condition, such as an illness, or because of some serious and compelling predicament. In the case of a medical problem an official document from a physician must be presented to the instructor in order to qualify for an exemption to this rule.
7. **EXTRA HELP:** If you are having difficulties in this course and are concerned about your performance, it is your responsibility to communicate these concerns to the professor in a timely fashion. Do not wait until the course is over to contact the professor about your final grade!
8. **POLITE BEHAVIOUR:** Students are expected to be courteous and civil in their behavior both in and outside of class. Unruly and rude behavior will not be tolerated.
9. **E-MAILS:** When you communicate with the instructor by means of e-mail be sure to use proper etiquette and a formal style of writing. For example, no e-mails with the salutation "Hey!" (a very popular opening for university students). Moreover, you should write in a legible and grammatically correct manner. Any correspondence which is vulgar, informal, or replete with spelling and grammatical mistakes will not be answered.
10. **LAPTOPS, CELLPHONES, TECHNOLOGY:** It is desirable that a proper pedagogical and learning atmosphere be created in the classroom. Therefore, it is requested of all students that various technologies not be used during the class. These include laptop computers, cellphones, and Ipods. Any exceptions to this rule will be made on a case by case basis. For example, if you are registered with AccessAbility Services and you require the use of a laptop to take notes, an accommodation can certainly be made for you. But please do see the professor about any such request.

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Academic Integrity Office (UW): A resource for students and instructors.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. 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 professor, 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:** https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf

For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to **University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline:**

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>

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:**

https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCApproved.pdf

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read the **St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals:**

https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf

Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/>), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.