

PHIL 202: History of Philosophy II

TR 10:50am-12:05pm, KCK 105

Instructor Contact Information

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Office Hours: TR 3:00-4:00pm and by appointment

Class Description

This course surveys the philosophical developments of the early modern period (roughly the 17th and 18th centuries), a time that witnessed the rise of modern science, and numerous philosophical challenges along with it. The difficult task of developing a world view compatible with this new science led early modern philosophers to fundamentally reconceive of the natural world and our place in it. In particular, they were driven to provide new accounts of the sorts of beings we and the things surrounding us are, the limits of our knowledge, and the role God is to play in philosophical theorizing. This revolution in thought is present in each of the early modern figures we will be considering—Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Malebranche, Cavendish, Spinoza, Conway, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant—although the form it takes is radically different for each.

Texts and Materials

Descartes, René. *Selected Philosophical Writings*, ed. by John Cottingham et al., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1988). ISBN-13: 978-0521358125 [C]

Leibniz, Gottfried W. *Philosophical Essays*, ed. and translated by Roger Ariew & Daniel Garber, Indianapolis: Hackett (1989). ISBN-13: 978-0872200623 [AG]

Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. by Peter Millican, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2007). ISBN-13: 978-0199549900 [EHU]

Atherthon, Margaret (ed.). *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, Indianapolis: Hackett (1994). ISBN-13: 978-0872202597 [A]

Locke, John. *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*, abridged and edited by K. Winkler, Indianapolis: Hackett (1996). ISBN-13: 978-0872202160 [W]

These books can be purchased at the Rice bookstore. All other class materials will be made available on owlspace.

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance, completion of the weekly readings, and participation
2. 8 short reading responses (~150 words) to be submitted online before class meetings
3. One 4-5 page paper (due March 28)
4. One 7-8 page paper (due May 4)

The grade for this course will be based on the two papers (midterm paper 25%, final paper 50%) and participation + reading responses (together 25%).

Rice Honor Code

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at <http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/>. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

All written assignments you turn in must be your own and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make sure that all passages you take from other sources are quoted and cited properly. If you are uncertain about whether or not a certain case constitutes plagiarism, please contact me *before* you submit your assignment. All violations of the Honor Code will be handed over to the Honor Council.

Disability Support Services

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111/adarice@rice.edu/x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Absence Policies

I expect that students show up for all class meetings (this is part of the attendance requirement). Please coordinate expected absences with me ahead of time.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus might be subject to change with advanced notice.

Topics and Readings

January 12: Introduction

January 14: Descartes's method of doubt

René Descartes, *First Meditation* (C 76-79); *Objections and Replies—On Meditation One* (C 123-126); *Discourse on the Method*, part I-III (C 20-35)

January 19: Descartes's *cogito* argument

René Descartes, *Second Meditation* (C 80-86); *Objections and Replies—On Meditation Two* (C 126-131); *Discourse on the Method*, part IV (C 35-40)

January 21: Descartes's causal argument for the existence of God

René Descartes, *Third Meditation* (86-98); *Objections and Replies—On Meditation Three* (C 131-133); *Discourse on the Method*, part IV (C 35-40); *Principles*, part I, §§17-23 (C 165-168)

January 26: Descartes's rule of truth and the ontological argument

René Descartes, *Fourth and Fifth Meditation* (C 98-110); *Objections and Replies—On Meditation Five* (C 135-143); *Principles*, part I, §§14-16 (C 164-165)

January 28: Descartes's substance dualism

René Descartes, *Sixth Meditation* (C 110-122); *Objections and Replies—On Meditation Six* (C 143-150); *Principles*, part I, §§51-54 (C 177-178), §§60-64 (C 180-183)

February 2: Elisabeth's challenge

Elisabeth, *Correspondence with Descartes* (A 9-21)

February 4: Malebranche's occasionalism

Nicolas Malebranche, *The Search after Truth* VI.ii.3 & Ecl. 15

February 9: Cavendish on Descartes

Margaret Cavendish, Selections from *Philosophical Letters* (A 22-45)

February 11: Spinoza's substance monism

Baruch de Spinoza, *Ethics* 1def1-1p15

Michael Della Rocca, "Spinoza's Substance Monism"

February 16: Spinoza's necessitarianism and parallelism

Baruch de Spinoza, *Ethics* 1p16-2p8

Dominik Perler, "The Problem of Necessitarianism (1p28-36)"

February 18: Conway's vitalism

Anne Conway, Selections from *The Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy* (A 46-76)

February 23: Leibniz's principles

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Primary Truths* (AG 30-34); *Discourse on Metaphysics* §§1-14 (AG 35-47); *Remarks on Arnauld's letter* (AG 69-77); *On the Ultimate Origination of Things* (AG 149-155); *Monadology* §§31-39 (AG 217-218)

February 25: Leibniz on substances; pre-established harmony

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics* §§8-14 (AG 40-47); *New System of Nature* (AG 138-145); *Principles of Nature and Grace* (AG 207-213)

March 1: Spring Break. No class!

March 3: Spring Break. No class!

March 8: Talks in Boston. No class!

March 10: Leibniz on the mind; Leibniz on space and time

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *New Essays*, Preface (AG 291-306); *Leibniz's Fourth Letter to Clarke* §§1-20 (AG 327-329); *Leibniz's Fifth Letter to Clarke* §29 (AG 334)

Optional: *Discourse on Metaphysics* §§26-29 (AG 58-60)

March 15: Locke on innate ideas, Locke's empiricism

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* I.ii.§§1-14 (W 7-11), II.i-ii, vi-vii (W 33-41, 44-46)

Optional: *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* I.ii-iii (W 11-23)

March 17: Locke on primary and secondary qualities; Locke on substance

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* II.viii (W 47-56), II.xxiii (W 117-129)

March 22: Locke on personal identity

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* II.xxvii (W 133-150)

March 24: Berkeley on abstract ideas
George Berkeley, *Treatise*, Introduction

March 29: Berkeley's idealism
George Berkeley, *Treatise* I, 1-20

March 31: Midterm Recess. No class!

April 5: Hume's empiricism
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* I-III (EHU 1-17)

April 7: Hume on induction
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* IV (EHU 18-29)
Optional: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* V-VI (EHU 30-43)

April 12: Hume on causation
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* VII (EHU 44-57)

April 14: Hume on religion
David Hume, *Of the Immortality of the Soul* (EHU 146-151); Excerpts from Parts I and II of the
Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (EHU 152-160)
Optional: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* XI (EHU 96-108)

April 19: Kant's reply to Hume
Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Introduction

April 21: Open