

Philosophy 365
Modern Philosophy I (The Rationalists)
Syllabus, 2014 (Fall Term)

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Office Hours:

1:15-3:00 Monday
10:15-12:00 Wednesday
10:15 – 12:00 Thursday
Other times by appointment.

Schedule of Readings (Page numbers refer to *Readings in Modern Philosophy*):

Sept 4	Introduction; Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , pp. 12-31.
Sept 9	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> I & II, pp. 22-34.
Sept 11	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> III & IV, pp. 34-45.
Sept 16	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> V & VI, pp. 45-55.
Sept 18	Descartes, “Objections and Replies”, pp. 63-80.
Sept 23	Descartes, <i>Principles of Philosophy</i> I, ¶ 1-54; pp. 81-91.
Sept 25	Descartes, <i>Principles of Philosophy</i> I, ¶ 63-76; pp. 93-97.
Sept 30	Descartes, <i>Principles of Philosophy</i> II, ¶ 1-25; pp. 97-103.
Oct 2	Quiz
Oct 7	Spinoza, Letters; pp. 151-157.
Oct 9	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> I, Defs., Axioms, Props. 1-11; pp. 158-163.
Oct 14	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> I, Props. 12-29; pp. 163-171.
Oct 16	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> I, Props. 30-36, Appendix; pp. 171-178.
Oct 21	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> II, Props. 1-13; pp. 178-185.

Oct 23	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> V, Props. 21-42; pp. 201-209.
Oct 28	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> Bk. III, Pt. II, Chs. 1-7; pp. 213-225.
Oct 30	Malebranche, <i>Search</i> , Bk. VI, Pt. II, Ch. 3 & Elucidation 15, pp. 225-233.
Nov 4	Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i> , pp. 375-278.
Nov 6	Leibniz, <i>New System of Nature</i> , pp. 279-284.
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – No Class
Nov 13	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> , ¶1-44; pp. 285-289.
Nov 18	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> , ¶ 45-90; pp. 289-293.
Nov 20	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , ¶1-12; pp. 234-240.
Nov 25	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , ¶ 13-22; pp. 240-248.
Nov 27	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , ¶ 23-37; pp. 248-257.
Dec 2	Review

Required Text for Class

Readings in Modern Philosophy, Vol. I: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz and Associated Texts. Edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2000.

Grading for the Course

Five Assignments; 2 points each.	10%
Quiz (Oct 2)	20%
Term Essay	35%
Final Exam	35%

The Five Assignments

You are required to submit five very short papers (250-500 words; 1-2 pages double spaced) on the assigned readings. You will be given due dates for your assignments,

approximately every second week. In each case, you are to explain some important point or points that you have found in the readings. These assignments will not be graded. If the assignment is done and on time (submitted at class time) you will receive two points. No credit will be given for late assignments. A Dean's note or a death certificate (yours) will provide the only exceptions to this rule.

I don't want a summary of the reading, but I want you to show me that you are doing the readings and thinking about them. We want to try to understand the readings accurately, but I am not grading these assignments, and a fair effort to understand what is going on the readings is all that I am after. The point of this exercise is to get us all prepared to discuss the readings in class.

Term Essay

For this course you are required to write an essay of approximately 12 pages in length in which you deal philosophically with one or more of the authors or problems in the period we are studying in this course. Supplemental information will be provided about this essay; a proposed topic is due to me 25 September.

The term essay is due 20 November. Late essays are penalized at the rate of one point off of the essay grade (out of 100) per day late, including weekends. The only exception to this rule can be provided by a note from the Dean's Office.

Academic Integrity

Please note the information given about the University Academic Integrity Policy in the *Academic Calendar*, 3.8. You are completely free to use any academic sources, including those found on the internet, to aid you in the writing of your essays. **If you do use any academic sources by citing, quoting, paraphrasing, or by using information or terminology, you must give a full reference to any such source. Failure to cite your sources can result in severe academic penalties, including dismissal from the University.** If you have any doubts about what might or might not be appropriate, please get in touch with me. In addition, the instructors in the Writing Centre can help you to understand what is permissible and what is not.

Classroom Courtesy

It is a great convenience, for some, to use electronic devices for note-taking only. If you bring electronic devices to this classroom, please do not disturb your fellow students by the use of them for activities other than classroom work. Do not surf the internet, text your friends, or make or receive phone calls. Classes are short and intense. Be present and concentrate. Please arrive on time. Do not do anything to disturb others.