

PHL 210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy

48 lectures for Fall-Winter 2018-19

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Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 to 11:00 in IB 335 (IB 235 for Winter Thursdays)

Tutorials: Wednesdays 9:00 in IB 320, 10:00 in IB 320, and 11:00 in IB 350

Instructor's office hours: Thursdays 3:30 to 5:00 in NE 6144

Course description

This course is a year-long survey of European philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries. The primary focus will be on canonical philosophers including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Kant. We will, however, examine some non-canonical philosophers as well. Topics to be discussed include the fundamental nature of reality, the extent of our knowledge, and the existence of God.

Logistics

Evaluation: Six quizzes at 5% each (on Oct 4, Nov 6, Nov 29, Jan 31, Mar 7, Apr 2), three papers at either 10% (the first paper, due Oct 19) or 15% (the second and third papers, due Dec 5 and Feb 15), final exam at 20% (date determined by registrar for Apr), and tutorial participation at 10%.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be taken in class. Each quiz will cover the canonical philosopher discussed immediately prior to the quiz. Only material from the lectures will be quizzed.

Papers: Topics and instructions for the papers will be posted to Quercus at least three weeks in advance of the deadline. Papers are to be submitted online via Quercus, which incorporates Turnitin.com. Late papers will be penalized at 5% for each calendar day, and papers more than one week late will not be accepted. To request an extension, please visit: philosophy.utoronto.ca/utm/utm-philosophy-undergraduate/utm-courses/special-consideration-requests.

Readings: All of the readings are freely available via Quercus. See Quercus for instructions on how to access these readings.

Turnitin.com: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Academic integrity

By university regulation, plagiarism will automatically be reported to the Dean. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas or words as if they are your own. You may use ideas and examples that come from others, but you must make clear that you are doing so. It is acceptable to quote, but when you do so, you must clearly provide a citation to the relevant work.

It is important to know that there are various forms of academic offense besides plagiarism. For more information please visit the following website about academic integrity: utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity. This site can help you get clear about what counts as an academic offense, how to prevent it, and the university's policies for dealing with suspected cases. Even if you plagiarize unintentionally, it still counts as an academic offense.

Lecture schedule

Fall term

Sep 6		Introduction	
Sep 11	Descartes	Skeptical arguments	<i>Meditation I</i>
Sep 13	Descartes	The cogito	<i>Meditation II</i>
Sep 18	Descartes	The argument from the idea of God	<i>Meditation III</i>
Sep 20	Descartes	The source of error	<i>Meditation IV</i>
Sep 25	Descartes	The ontological argument	<i>Meditation V</i>
Sep 27	Descartes	Dualism	<i>Meditation VI</i>
Oct 2	Elisabeth	Problems for dualism	<i>Letters to Descartes</i>
Oct 4	Malebranche	Occasionalism	<i>Search 6.2.3</i>
Oct 9		Reading week	
Oct 11		Reading week	
Oct 16	Spinoza	Definitions and axioms	<i>Ethics I, defs and axms</i>
Oct 18	Spinoza	The no shared attribute thesis	<i>Ethics I, prop 1-5</i>
Oct 23	Spinoza	The necessary existence of substance	<i>Ethics I, prop 6, 7, 11</i>
Oct 25	Spinoza	The argument for monism completed	<i>Ethics I, prop 14, 15dem</i>
Oct 30	Spinoza	The nature of God	<i>Ethics I, prop 16-19</i>
Nov 1	Spinoza	Necessitarianism	<i>Ethics I, prop 29, 33</i>
Nov 6	Conway	Meliorism	<i>Principles III, VI</i>
Nov 8	Leibniz	The cosmological argument	<i>Ultimate Origination</i>
Nov 13	Leibniz	The argument from eternal truths	<i>Ultimate Origination</i>

Nov 15	Leibniz	The best of all possible worlds	<i>Ultimate Origination</i>
Nov 20	Leibniz	Arguments against matter	<i>Arnauld 28 Nov 1686</i>
Nov 22	Leibniz	The theory of monads (1)	<i>Monadology 1-18</i>
Nov 27	Leibniz	The theory of monads (2)	<i>Monadology 53-60</i>
Nov 29	Lady Masham	Problems with the theory of monads	<i>Leibniz 3.Jn+8.Au 1704</i>
Dec 4		Rationalism versus empiricism	

Winter term

Jan 8	Locke	No innate metaphysical knowledge	<i>Essay I.ii</i>
Jan 10	Locke	No innate moral knowledge	<i>Essay I.iii</i>
Jan 15	Locke	Empirical knowledge	<i>Essay II.i, II.viii</i>
Jan 17	Locke	Ignorance of substance	<i>Essay II.xxiii</i>
Jan 22	Locke	Personal identity (1)	<i>Essay II.xxvii</i>
Jan 24	Locke	Personal identity (2)	<i>Essay II.xxvii</i>
Jan 29	Locke	The argument from thought	<i>Essay IV.x</i>
Jan 31	Pascal	The wager	<i>Pensées 680</i>
Feb 5	Hume	Empirical knowledge	<i>Enquiry I-III</i>
Feb 7	Hume	The problem of induction	<i>Enquiry IV, V pt I</i>
Feb 12	Hume	Necessary connection	<i>Enquiry VII</i>
Feb 14	Hume	Free will	<i>Enquiry VIII</i>
Feb 19		Reading week	
Feb 21		Reading week	
Feb 26	Hume	Miracles (1)	<i>Enquiry X</i>
Feb 28	Hume	Miracles (2)	<i>Enquiry X</i>
Mar 5	Hume	The problem of evil	<i>Enquiry XI</i>
Mar 7		Background on Kant	
Mar 12	Kant	Synthetic a priori judgments	<i>Prologomena Preamble</i>
Mar 14	Kant	Space and time	<i>Prologomena I.6-12</i>
Mar 19	Kant	Idealism and illusion	<i>Prologomena I.13</i>
Mar 21	Kant	Concepts of the understanding	<i>Prologomena II.14-23, 39</i>
Mar 26	Kant	Noumena vs. phenomena	<i>Prologomena II.32-35</i>
Mar 28	Kant	Cosmological ideas	<i>Prologomena III.50-54</i>
Apr 2	Kant	The moral argument	<i>Practical Reason II.ii.v</i>
Apr 4		Envoi	