

PHL 210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy

48 lectures for Fall-Winter 2018-19

Instructor: Dr. Owen Pikkert, owen.pikkert@mail.utoronto.ca

TA: Etye Steinberg, etye.steinberg@mail.utoronto.ca

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 René Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, Gottfried Leibniz, John Locke, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant. We will, however, examine some non-canonical philosophers as well. Such philosophers include Princess Elisabeth, Nicolas Malebranche, Anne Conway, Lady Masham, Mary Astell, and Blaise Pascal. 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 and non-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

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| 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> |

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| Nov 1 | Spinoza | Necessitarianism | <i>Ethics I, 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, 78-81</i> |
| Nov 29 | Lady Masham | Problems with the theory of monads | <i>3 Jun and 8 Aug 1704</i> |
| Dec 4 | | Rationalism versus empiricism | |

Winter term

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| Jan 8 | Locke | Empirical knowledge | <i>Essay II.i, ii.</i> |
| Jan 10 | Locke | Primary and secondary qualities | <i>Essay II.viii</i> |
| Jan 15 | Locke | Knowledge of substance | <i>Essay II.xxiii</i> |
| Jan 17 | Locke | Personal identity (1) | <i>Essay II.xxvii</i> |
| Jan 22 | Locke | Personal identity (2) | <i>Essay II.xxvii</i> |
| Jan 24 | Locke | Thinking matter | <i>Essay IV.iii</i> |
| Jan 29 | Locke | The argument from consciousness | <i>Essay IV.x</i> |
| Jan 31 | Astell | The improvement of the understanding | <i>Proposal II.iii</i> |
| Feb 5 | Hume | Empirical knowledge | <i>Enquiry I-III</i> |
| Feb 7 | Hume | The problem of induction | <i>Enquiry IV-V</i> |
| Feb 12 | Hume | Causation | <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 | Pascal | The wager | <i>Pensées 680</i> |
| Mar 12 | Kant | Distinctions between judgments | <i>Prologomena Preamble</i> |
| Mar 14 | Kant | The possibility of mathematics | <i>Prologomena I</i> |
| Mar 19 | Kant | The possibility of natural science | <i>Prologomena II</i> |
| Mar 21 | Kant | The possibility of metaphysics | <i>Prologomena III</i> |
| Mar 26 | Kant | The bounds of pure reason | <i>Prologomena Conclusion</i> |
| Mar 28 | Kant | The moral argument | <i>Practical Reason II.ii.v</i> |
| Apr 2 | | Types of idealism | |
| Apr 4 | | Envoi | |