

PHL 210Y1Y: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy

University of Toronto, Fall-Winter 2020-21

Instructors and TAs

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Lecture and office hours

Lectures	Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:00 in AH 100 and via BB Collaborate Ultra. You can access BB Collaborate Ultra by logging into Quercus (q.utoronto.ca), clicking on the course, clicking on the link to BB Collaborate on the left, and then clicking on the relevant session.
Tutorials	Times posted on the online U of T timetable.
Office hours	Prof. Rosenthal: Tu 11am-12pm; Th 1-2pm; and by appointment. [online only] Prof. Pikkert: Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00 [online only]

Course description

This course will survey the development of philosophy in the early modern period. We will study in some detail philosophical texts from both the so-called "rationalist" and "empiricist" traditions and conclude with an examination of Immanuel Kant's critique and synthesis of these traditions. We shall focus on metaphysical and epistemological questions and their implications for scientific inquiry. This course will have two primary goals: 1) to understand the texts themselves and their place within each philosopher's intellectual development; and 2) to understand the interrelations of the texts and their place in the development of philosophy in this period.

Evaluation

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Worth</i>	<i>Due dates</i>
Scaffold 1	6%	29 Sep
Scaffold 2	6%	20 Oct
Scaffold 3	6%	17 Nov
Scaffold 4	12%	8 Dec
Paper 1	15%	9 Feb

Paper 2	15%	23 Mar
In-class quizzes (10 out of 12)	10%	22 Sep, 6 Oct, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 24 Nov, 1 Dec, 5 Jan, 19 Jan, 2 Feb, 23 Feb, 9 Mar, 30 Mar
Discussion questions (10 out of 12)	10%	22 Sep, 6 Oct, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 24 Nov, 1 Dec, 12 Jan, 26 Jan, 2 Feb, 2 Mar, 16 Mar, 30 Mar
Final assessment	20%	Apr [date TBA]

Textbook

The textbook for this course is *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources* (third edition), edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett, 2019). It is available via the U of T bookstore. You can also access an electronic version [here](#).

Assignments

Quercus. This course has an associated Quercus page, which you are expected to check on a regular basis.

Scaffold assignments. During the first semester, you will be required to write a series of four short scaffold assignments on Descartes. The first assignment will ask you to summarize the relevant argument from Descartes. The second will ask you to provide an objection to the argument and Descartes' actual or possible response to that objection. The third will require you to evaluate the response, derive a conclusion, and write an introduction (including a thesis). The fourth of these assignments requires you to use what you've written for the first three assignments as the basis for a complete paper. The purpose of these assignments is for you to gain a deeper knowledge and appreciation for how to write a good philosophy paper. Further instructions will be posted to Quercus; assignments are also to be submitted online via Quercus. Late assignments will be penalized at 5% for each calendar day, and assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.

Papers. During the second semester, you will have to write two papers. Topics and instructions for the papers will be posted to Quercus at least two weeks in advance of the deadline. They are to be 3-5 pages double-spaced. Papers are to be submitted online via Quercus. Late papers will be penalized at 5% for each calendar day, and papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

In-class quizzes. You will have to write ten in-class quizzes, from a choice of twelve. The pedagogical purpose of these quizzes is to motivate attention in lectures. The quiz questions will be based on material delivered by the instructor during one of the lectures. You must write

the quiz at the exact time that it is administered in class, unless documentation is provided (see below for the types of documentation considered acceptable).

Discussion questions. A set of discussion questions will be available each week. They are due prior to lecture. You will have to answer five of them each semester, which will be graded as either “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory”. A “Satisfactory” response shows some effort (at least 125 words, though no more than 250 words), adequate understanding of the concepts (even if you don’t get it all correct) and offers some critical discussion. An “Unsatisfactory” response shows little effort in responding to the question with little understanding of the concepts. A Satisfactory score is worth 10 points; an Unsatisfactory score is worth 5 points; and not submitting anything is worth 0 points. If your submission is late, then a Satisfactory score is worth 5 points, and an Unsatisfactory response is worth 0 points. You cannot turn in more than one late answer to each group of questions as defined by their due date. Answers to discussion questions are to be submitted online via Quercus.

Final assessment. The final assessment takes the place of a final exam. It will be cumulative, covering material from the entire course. The final assessment may include both multiple choice questions and short essays.

Tutorials

Tutorials offer you the chance to engage more actively with other students through the mediation of a TA. The purpose of the tutorial is supposed to be flexible: to allow you to review the arguments, to consider the text in more detail, to better articulate your understanding and criticism of the philosophical positions, to listen to others, and to learn skills that will help you develop your ideas in oral and written form. It is therefore important that you attend and participate in your weekly tutorial session.

Extensions

In more normal circumstances, requests for extensions would require submitting a Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form, or another document deemed acceptable by the University. This year, however, the University has decided the following: “Students who are absent from class for any reason (e.g., COVID, other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration. The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence.” It is highly recommended that, as soon as you have filled out this form, you contact Professor Rosenthal immediately concerning your situation. Late requests will not be viewed favourably. Please direct all further inquiries concerning extensions and accommodations to Professor Rosenthal.

Email policy

Only use email for short logistical questions that are not already answered in the syllabus or in instructions posted to Quercus. Philosophical and textual questions are best saved for office hours. As per the preceding paragraph, please direct all inquiries concerning extensions and accommodations to Professor Rosenthal.

Departmental Quercus support

If you have trouble accessing Quercus or trouble with any feature of Quercus, don't hesitate to reach out to the Department of Philosophy's Quercus helpline. From September 10 to September 23 you can reach someone at qssupport.phil@utoronto.ca (between 9am to 5pm). For alternative support (and support beyond the period mentioned above) please get in touch with the Information Commons Help Desk on the ground floor of Robarts Library: <https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/faq/where-information-commons-help-desk>. You can contact them at 978-HELP (4357), or at help.desk@utoronto.ca.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their papers to Turnitin.com (now incorporated into Quercus) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their papers 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 website.

Academic integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to your instructors. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from the instructors or from other [institutional resources](#).

Remarking policy

A student who believes an individual item of work has been incorrectly or unfairly marked may ask the person who marked it for re-evaluation. Such a request should be communicated in writing, as well as the reason(s) for the requested revision. Students should make such requests as soon as possible after receiving the work back, but no later than two weeks after it was returned. If a TA originally marked the work, the remarking request should go first to the

TA and any appeal of that should go to the course instructor. If a remarking is granted, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same. Continuing with the remark or the appeal means the student accepts this condition.

Recording Policy

Privacy: All the recorded (both synchronous and asynchronous) lecture videos will be stored on MyMedia. You will need a UTORid to access this material. Please note that during synchronous online sessions of the class we will record your questions, whether you ask them on the chat feature of the software or in person. If you ask questions, we will assume that you are giving your permission to record them. Please note that during every synchronous class session there will also be a period in which we do not record the session. If you have reservations about asking questions during the recorded portion, then you should consider either (a) waiting to ask your question during the unrecorded portion of the synchronous online session or (b) submitting a question to one of the course TAs in attendance, who can then pose your question anonymously on your behalf. We will recommend that your TA refrain from recording tutorial sections. However, you need to check with your TA to confirm.

Copyright: Please note that the instructors reserve their copyright on all material that they have created for this course, including, but not limited to, recorded lectures. You have the right to download the material and use them privately as part of your learning experience in this course. However, you do not have the right to share the materials, whether by e-mail, file-sharing software, reposting them on another website, or any other method not mentioned here—without express, written permission by the instructors. You do not have the right to record any materials that are not recorded by the instructors without their prior, written permission.

Lecture schedule

Fall semester

15 Sep	Bacon, Galileo, and Descartes on methodology	
	Bacon, <i>New Organon</i> (16-20)	Rosenthal
	Galileo, <i>The Assayer</i> (21-24)	Rosenthal
	Descartes, <i>Discourse on the Method</i> , 1, 2, and 5 (25-34)	Pikkert
22 Sep	Descartes on skepticism and its refutation	
	Discussion questions 1 due	
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Preface, I (35-43)	Rosenthal

	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Objections and Replies (69-72)	Rosenthal
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , II (43-47)	Pikkert
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Objections and Replies (76-79)	Pikkert
	Quiz 1	
29 Sep	Descartes on the existence of God and the problem of error	
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , III (47-54)	Pikkert
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Objections and Replies (72-75, 79-92)	Pikkert
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , IV (54-58)	Rosenthal
	Scaffold 1 due	
6 Oct	Descartes on the existence of God and the mind-body union	
	Discussion questions 2 due	
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , V (58-61)	Pikkert
	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , VI (61-68)	Rosenthal
	Descartes and Princess Elisabeth, <i>Correspondence</i> (93-99)	Rosenthal
	Quiz 2	
13 Oct	Spinoza on substance/modes/God/necessity (1)	
	Discussion questions 3 due	
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part I, Propositions 1-5 (172-173)	Rosenthal
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part I, Propositions 6-14 (173-177)	Pikkert
	Quiz 3	
20 Oct	Spinoza on substance/modes/God/necessity (2)	
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part I, Propositions 15-20, App (177-182, 188-192)	Rosenthal
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part I, Propositions 21-36 (182-188)	Pikkert
	Scaffold 2 due	
27 Oct	Spinoza on the human mind, knowledge, and the will	
	Discussion questions 4 due	
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part II, Propositions 1-14 (192-200)	Rosenthal
	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part II, Propositions 15-49 (200-215)	Pikkert
	Quiz 4	
3 Nov	Leibniz on matter/monads/God (1)	

	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> (252-275) Leibniz, <i>Correspondence with Arnauld</i> (276-292)	Rosenthal Pikkert
10 Nov	Reading week	
17 Nov	Leibniz on matter/monads/God (2) Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i> (293-296) Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature</i> (297-302) Scaffold 3 due	Pikkert Rosenthal
24 Nov	Leibniz on matter/monads/God (3) Discussion questions 5 due Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> (303-311) Leibniz, <i>Correspondence with Clarke</i> , 1-4 (322-331) Quiz 5	Rosenthal Pikkert
1 Dec	Locke on knowledge and ideas Discussion questions 6 due Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book I, chp 1-2 (346-352) Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book II, chp 1-14 (352-378) Quiz 6	Rosenthal Pikkert
8 Dec	Locke on power and freedom Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book II, chp 21 (378-387) Wrap-up of first semester Scaffold 4 due	Pikkert Rosenthal
<i>Winter semester</i>		
5 Jan	Locke on substance and the extent of knowledge Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book II, chp 22-23; III, chp 3, 6 (387-397, 407-416) Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book IV, chp 1-4, 11, 15-16 (416-435, 441-451) Quiz 7	Pikkert Rosenthal
12 Jan	Locke on the existence of God and personal identity Discussion questions 7 due	

	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book IV, chp 10 (435-441) Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Book II, chp 27 (397-407)	Pikkert Rosenthal
19 Jan	Berkeley on idealism	
	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Intro §1-25 (478-486) Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Part I §1-33 (487-493) Quiz 8	Rosenthal Pikkert
26 Jan	Hume on impressions, ideas, and induction	
	Discussion questions 8 due Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , I-III (579-588) Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , IV-V (588-601)	Rosenthal Pikkert
2 Feb	Hume on causation and free will	
	Discussion questions 9 due Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , VI-VII (601-610) Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , VIII (610-621) Quiz 9	Pikkert Rosenthal
9 Feb	Hume on miracles and the afterlife	
	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , X (623-632) Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , XI (632-639) Paper 1 due	Pikkert Rosenthal
16 Feb	Reading week	
23 Feb	Hume on the types of skepticism and the teleological argument	
	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , XII (639-646) Hume, <i>Dialogues</i> , §1-5 (647-667) Quiz 10	Rosenthal Pikkert
2 Mar	Kant and the project of transcendental idealism	
	Discussion questions 10 due Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Prefaces, Introduction (775-787)	Pikkert
9 Mar	Kant on space and time	
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic Part I §I (787-791) Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic Part I §II (791-795) Quiz 11	Pikkert Rosenthal
16 Mar	Kant on the justification of the schema	

	Discussion questions 11 due	
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Transcendental Deduction (795-814)	Rosenthal
23 Mar	Kant's critique of Hume and the refutation of idealism	
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Second Analogy of Experience (830-837)	Rosenthal
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Refutation of Idealism (839-841)	Pikkert
	Paper 2 due	
30 Mar	Kant on spatiotemporal finitude and freedom	
	Discussion questions 12 due	
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , First Antinomy of Pure Reason (850-852)	Pikkert
	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Third Antinomy of Pure Reason (856-858)	Rosenthal
	Quiz 12	
Apr	Final assessment	