

PHL 210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy

University of Toronto, Fall-Winter 2021

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Lecture hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 in DV 2074 and online

Prof. office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 to 12:00 (online)

TA office hours: Thursdays 4:10-5:00 (online or in person)

Course description

This course is a year-long survey of some major European philosophers in the 17th and 18th centuries. We will study Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz in the first term, and Locke, Hume, and Kant in the second term. Our aim will be to master some of their main ideas and arguments. Topics to be discussed include the fundamental nature of reality, the extent of our knowledge, the nature of the mind, the relation between mind and body, the existence of God, and other topics as well.

Logistics

Evaluation: Four papers at 11.25% each (due on Oct 8, Nov 19, Feb 4, Mar 25), four tests at 11.25% each (on Oct 25, Dec 6, Feb 16, Apr 6), and tutorial participation at 10%. There is no final exam.

Textbook: *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources* (third edition), edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett, 2019). Hard copies and digital copies are available for purchase through the U of T bookstore.

Papers: Topics and instructions for papers will be posted at least three weeks before the deadline. Papers are to be 4 to 6 pages in length, double-spaced. Late papers will be penalized at 5% for each calendar day, and papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

Tests: Tests consist of a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. They are based on the lectures, and are not cumulative - they only cover material covered since the previous test. All tests will be taken online via Quercus, and the instructor will be available online to answer any questions that may arise.

Extensions: To request an extension, please follow these instructions. Note the late penalties as described above. Busyness is not an adequate excuse.

Email policy: Only use email for short logistical questions that are not already answered on Quercus. Philosophical and textual questions are best saved for office hours. Emails will typically receive a response within a couple of days.

Lecture recordings and copyright: This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. The recordings will be available on the Zoom Cloud. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

Plagiarism detection tool: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

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, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Information security

If you are a citizen of another country, and/or accessing your courses at the University of Toronto from a jurisdiction outside of Canada, then please note that you may be subject to the laws of the country in which you are residing, or any country of which you have citizenship. The University of Toronto has a long-established commitment to freedom of expression, with this right enabled by an environment valuing respect, diversity, and inclusion. In your classes, you may be assigned readings or discuss topics that are against the law in other jurisdictions. You are encouraged to become familiar with any local laws that may apply to you and any potential impact on you if course content and information could be considered illegal, controversial, or politically sensitive. If you have any concerns about these issues, please contact your instructor directly to discuss with them.

Lecture schedule

Term 1

Descartes

Sep 8	Course introduction	
Sep 13	Discourse on the Method, 25-34	Method
Sep 15	Meditation 1, 35-43	Skepticism
Sep 20	Meditation 2, 43-47	The cogito
Sep 22	Meditation 3, 47-54	The trademark argument
Sep 27	Meditation 4, 54-58	Truth and error
Sep 29	Meditation 5, 58-61	The ontological argument
Oct 4	Meditation 6, 61-68	Dualism

Spinoza

Oct 6	Ethics 1, defs, axioms, 172-173	Definitions and axioms
Oct 8	Paper 1 due	
Oct 11	Thanksgiving	
Oct 13	Reading week	
Oct 18	Ethics 1 props 1-5, 173:	The no shared attribute thesis
Oct 20	Ethics 1 props 6-11, 173-177	The necessary existence of God
Oct 25	Test 1	
Oct 27	Ethics 1 props 12-13, 177	The indivisibility of substance
Nov 1	Ethics 1 props 14-15, 177-179	Monism
Nov 3	Ethics 1 props 16-20, 1app, 179-182, 188-192	Against divine teleology
Nov 8	Ethics 1 props 21-36, 182-188	Necessitarianism

Leibniz

Nov 10	Discourse on Metaphysics 1-7, 252-256	God's choice of the best
Nov 15	To Arnauld, 28 Nov/8 Dec 1686, 282-285	Arguments against Cartesian matter
Nov 17	Primary Truths, 293-296	Metaphysical principles
Nov 19	Paper 2 due	
Nov 22	New System/Monadology, 297-311	Monads (1)
Nov 24	New System/Monadology, 297-311	Monads (2)
Nov 29	Monadology 31-38, 306	The cosmological argument
Dec 1	Letters to Clarke, 322-331	Arguments against Newtonianism
Dec 6	Test 2	

Term 2

Locke

Jan 10	Essay 1.1-2, 346-352	The rejection of innate ideas
Jan 12	Essay 2.1-12, 352-372	Distinctions among ideas
Jan 17	Essay 2.21, 378-387	Freedom
Jan 19	Essay 2.22-23, 3.3,6, 387-397, 407-416	Substance
Jan 24	Essay 2.27, 397-407	Personal identity
Jan 26	Essay 4.1-4, 416-435	The extent of knowledge
Jan 31	Essay 4.10, 435-441	The existence of God
Feb 2	Essay 4.11, 441-445	The external world
Feb 4	Paper 3 due	

Hume

Feb 7	Enquiry 1-3, 579-588	Impressions and ideas
Feb 9	Enquiry 4-5, 588-601	The problem of induction
Feb 14	Enquiry 6-7, 601-610	Necessary connections
Feb 16	Test 3	
Feb 21	Family Day	
Feb 23	Reading Week	
Feb 28	Enquiry 10, 623-632	Miracles
Mar 2	Dialogues 1-5, 647-667	The teleological argument
Mar 7	Dialogues 9-11, 667-679	The cosmological argument/evil

Kant

Mar 9	CPR Preface, 775-782	Overview of project
Mar 14	CPR Introduction, 782-787	Synthetic a priori judgments
Mar 16	CPR Transcendental Aesthetic 1-3, 787-791	Space
Mar 21	CPR Transcendental Aesthetic 4-7, 791-795	Time
Mar 23	CPR Transcendental Analytic 1.1, 795-800	The categories
Mar 25	Paper 4 due	
Mar 28	CPR Transcendental Analytic 1.2, 800-814	The transcendental deduction
Mar 30	CPR Transcendental Dialectic 2.2, 846-852	The first antinomy
Apr 4	CPR Transcendental Method 2, 881-893	Practical reason
Apr 6	Test 4	