

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY (FALL 2007)

PHIL-235-01 – Class Number 3315 ♦ 519 Smith Hall ♦ MWF 11:00-11:50am

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Course Description

An historical survey of prominent philosophical problems in Early Modern European Philosophy. We will carefully read, interpret, and discuss the works of major philosophers such as Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Hobbes, Hume, and Kant, with special focus on their views about matter, qualities, causation, the foundations and extent of human knowledge, and the problem of evil.

This is an introductory course, and no previous knowledge of philosophical texts and issues is required to enroll. The course is structured as a series of lectures during which students' participation is highly encouraged. New readings are assigned for each class.

Structure and Course Requirements:

Readings and Participation: You will be expected to complete the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned, to bring the texts under discussion with you to class, and to come to class prepared to discuss them.

Attendance: You are expected to attend each class. If you will be absent, please e-mail me in advance (aborghin@holycross.edu). The only grounds for which absences will be excused are religious holidays, family crises, illness, or athletic competitions (which does not include athletic training); absences due to the last three reasons must be explained by a note from a dean or a doctor. For each class, I keep track of students who are late. Accumulating several late arrivals will incur in a grade reduction of one third of a grade. If you have scheduling conflicts, please come see me.

In class examinations: Midterm (on 10.19.2007, class time) and Final (date, time, and location TBA)

Papers: 1200 to 1600 words each. The first paper is due in class on Friday, September 28; the second paper is due in class on Friday, November 16. Papers should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, and all the page margins should measure one inch. You can use any citation system you prefer. Paper topics will be distributed one week to ten days in advance.

Required Texts:

The following texts are required:

A.J. Vaidya, A.P. Martinich, and F. Allhoff: *Early Modern Philosophy: Essential Readings with Comments*, Blackwell, ISBN: 978-1405135672

Aquinas, *The Principles of Nature* (ERes)

Bayle, "Manichees" in *Historical and Critical Dictionary* (ERes)

Galileo, *Essayer* (ERes)

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, (Hackett), ISBN: 978-0915144617

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett), ISBN: 978-0872202290

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (Hackett), ISBN: 978-0872205932

Grade Breakdown:

Paper I: 20%

Paper II: 25%

Midterm and Final: 25%

Participation: 5%

Please be advised: In order to pass the class you are required to do *all* the coursework (e.g. completing one out of two papers will result in failing the class). Late papers incur in a penalty of one third of a letter grade per day (e.g. from A to A-). Finally, plagiarism, cheating, and collusion, in any form, will not be tolerated, in accordance with the *Student Handbook*, p. 35.

Office Hours:

My office hours are M-W 2 to 4 in 519 Smith. I am also on campus at other times, and you can make an appointment to see me by e-mail (aborghin@holycross.edu). Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me about any aspect of the course.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1

- 8.29 (W) Introduction
- 8.31 (F) Aquinas: *Principia Naturae* (ERes)

Week 2

- 9.3 (M) Aquinas: *Principia Naturae* (ERes)
- 9.5 (W) Aquinas: *Principia Naturae* (ERes)
- 9.7 (F) Montaigne, *Apology*, pp. 25-38 (R)

Week 3

- 9.10 (M) Montaigne, *Apology*, pp. 25-38 (R)
- 9.12 (W) Galileo, *Letter*, pp. 49-54 (R)
- 9.14 (F) Galileo, *Essayer*, (ERes)

Week 4

- 9.17 (M) Galileo, *Essayer*, (ERes)
- 9.19 (W) Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp. 61-69 (R)
PAPER #1 TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
- 9.21 (F) Descartes, *Meditations*, I (R)

Week 5

- 9.24 (M) Descartes, *Meditations*, II (R)
- 9.26 (W) Descartes, *Meditations*, III (R)
- 9.28 (F) Descartes, *Meditations*, III (R)
PAPER #1 DUE

Week 6

- 10.1 (M) Descartes, *Meditations*, IV (R)
- 10.3 (W) Descartes, *Meditations*, V-VI (R)
- 10.5 (F) Descartes, *Second Objections*, pp. 124-131 (R)

Week 7

- 10.8 (M) **ACADEMIC HOLIDAY**
- 10.10 (W) Descartes, *Third and Fourth Objections*, pp. 132-136 (R)
- 10.12 (F) Descartes, *Fifth Objections*, pp. 137-139 (R)

Week 8

- 10.15 (M) Descartes-Elizabeth, *Correspondance*, pp. 140-144 (R)
- 10.17 (W) Bayle, "Manichees" (ERes)

10.19 (F) **MIDTERM**

Week 9

- 10.22 (M) Spinoza, *Ethics*, Appendix to Part I, pp. 175-179 (R)
- 10.24 (W) Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part I, pp. 158-175 (R)
- 10.26 (F) Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part I, pp. 158-175 (R)

Week 10

- 10.29 (M) Leibniz, *Discourse*, pp. 230-256 (R)
- 10.31 (W) Leibniz, *Discourse*, pp. 230-256 (R)
- 11.2 (F) Leibniz, *Theodicy*, 257-262 (R)

Week 11

- 11.5 (M) Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, I
- 11.7 (W) Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, II
#2 PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
- 11.9 (F) Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, III

Week 12

- 11.12 (M) Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 1-3
- 11.14 (W) Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 4-5
- 11.16 (F) Hume, *Enquiry*, Section 7
DUE PAPER #2**

Week 13

- 11.19 (M) [NO CLASS. SUBSTITUTIVE CLASS TBA]

11.21 (W) **THANKSGIVING, ACADEMIC HOLIDAY**

11.23 (F) **THANKSGIVING, ACADEMIC HOLIDAY**

Week 14

11.26 (M) Kant, *Prolegomena*, Prologue

11.28 (W) Kant, *Prolegomena*, Part I

11.30 (F) Kant, *Prolegomena*, Part II

Week 15

12.3 (M) Conclusions

12.8-15 **FINAL** Date, time, and location TBA