

Early Modern Philosophy (Summer 2005)

S2201 – Section 01 ♦ 511 Hamilton Hall ♦ MW 1-4.10pm

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I. Course Description

An historical survey of prominent philosophical problems in Medieval and Early Modern western European thought. We will carefully read, interpret, and discuss the works of major philosophers such as Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, and Kant, with special focus on their views about matter, qualities, cause, the foundations and extent of knowledge.

II. Requirements

Courseworks

Each week I will post some questions on Courseworks. You should choose one and provide an answer of about 500 words in length. I will then revise your answers and bring them back to you in class.

Final paper

Due in class on Wednesday, June 29th. It should be between 1500 to 1600 words; typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced; all the page margins should measure one inch. Paper topics will be distributed one week-ten days in advance.

Grade breakdown:

Courseworks: 20%;
Final exam: 30%;
Paper: 30%;
Attendance and participation: 20%

II. Required Texts:

A reader packet (R) plus some books (B).

Aquinas, *The Principles of Nature* (R)
Montaigne, photocopies (R)
Gassendi, photocopies (R)
Galileo, *Essayer* (R)
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (B)
Descartes – Elizabeth of Bohemia, *Correspondence* (R)
Spinoza, *Ethics* (B)
Conway, *Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy* (B)
Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (B)
Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (B)
Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (B)

The reader is available at Village Copier (2872 Broadway, East side, of the street, btw 112th and 111th Street, phone: 212-666-0600). Books are available at the Reserve Desk at Butler Library and at Columbia Bookstore (Underground Level, Lerner Hall, Columbia Campus).

III. Schedule

Week 1

May 23: Course description; conceptions of the history of philosophy; Aquinas: *Principles*

May 25: Aquinas: *Principles*

Week 2

May 30: MEMORIAL DAY -- NO CLASS

June 1: Montaigne, selections; Gassendi, selections; Galileo: selections from *Essayer*

June 3: Descartes: *Meditations*, Med. I, II

Week 3

June 6: Descartes: *Meditations*, Med. III, V, VI; Descartes – Elizabeth : *Correspondence*

June 8: Conway: *Principles*

Week 4

June 13: Spinoza: *Ethics*, Part I and Appendix to Part I

June 15: Berkeley: *Dialogues*, First Dialogue, Second Dialogue

Week 5

June 20: Berkeley: *Dialogues*, Third Dialogue; Hume: *Inquiry*, §1-5

June 22: Hume: *Inquiry*, 7, 9; Kant, Preamble

Week 6

June 27: Kant: *Prolegomena*, First Part

June 29: FINAL