

Syllabus for PHIL 661.600: Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Leibniz and Berkeley

Fall 2003; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel

The **Seminar in the History of Philosophy** this semester examines the philosophy of two major figures of 17th- and 18th-century philosophy, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and George Berkeley. Although the seminar addresses all of the major themes developed in their epistemological and metaphysical writings, it focuses this semester especially on the theme of *substance*.

Texts: *Philosophical Texts* by G. W. Leibniz (ed. Francks and Woolhouse); reading PT
Philosophical Works by George Berkeley (ed. Ayers); reading PW

For more of a general background in the issues of the period, consult Frederick Copleston's *History of Philosophy*, vol. 4 (includes Leibniz) and vol. 5 (includes Berkeley). Recommended overviews of Leibniz include *The Cambridge Companion to Leibniz* (ed. Jolley); for Berkeley, consult *Berkeley: An Interpretation* by Ken Winkler.

<u>Sept.</u>	2/4		Instructor out of country
	9	12:45-2:30	Intro to Leibniz, PT 5-49
	11	12:45-2:30	<i>De Summa Rerum</i> (Daniel)
	16	12:45-2:30	<i>De Summa Rerum</i> (Daniel); Discourse on Metaphysics PT 54-93 (McDaniel)
	18	12:45-2:00	Discourse (McDaniel)
		3:30-4:45	General lecture on Leibniz (Daniel)
	23	12:45-2:30	Arnauld correspondence PT 94-138 (Gehring)
	25	12:45-3:15	Reflections, New System, Specimen Dynamicum PT 139-80 (Haris)
	30	12:45-2:30	Foucher/Bayle correspondence, Nature Itself PT 180-222 (Debord)
<u>Oct.</u>	2	12:45-2:00	Nature Itself (Debord); Bayle correspondence PT 223-57 (Evans)
		3:30-4:45	Bayle correspondence (Evans)
	7	12:45-2:30	Nature & Grace, Monadology, 258-81 (Gehring)
	9	12:45-3:30	<i>New Essays, Theodicy</i> (Daniel)
	14/16/21/23		Instructor out of country
	28	12:45-2:00	Intro to Berkeley; Philos. Commentaries B, PW 305-50 (Daniel)
	30	12:45-2:00	Philos. Commentaries A, PW 351-412 (Daniel)
<u>Nov.</u>	4	12:45-2:00	<i>New Theory of Vision</i> (McDaniel)
	6	12:45-2:00	<i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i> , up to ¶ 85 (Haris)
	11	12:45-2:00	<i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i> , ¶ 85-156 (Debord)
	13	12:45-2:00	<i>Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i> , Dial. I (Evans)
	18	12:45-2:00	<i>Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i> , Dial. II-III (Gehring)
	20	12:45-2:00	<i>De Motu</i> (McDaniel)
	25	12:45-2:00	<i>Theory of Vision Vindicated</i> ; Johnson correspondence (Haris)
	(27)		(Thanksgiving)
<u>Dec.</u>	2	12:45-2:00	<i>Alciphron</i> , Dialogues I-IV (Debord)
	4	12:45-2:00	<i>Alciphron</i> , Dialogues V-VII (Evans)
	9	12:45-2:00	<i>Siris</i> (Daniel)
	17	(Wednesday)	Term Paper due in office 12:00 p.m.

Assignments/Presentations/Papers/Grades

At each class meeting a member of the seminar will prepare a 4- to 6-page outline of selected passages from the text and other writings by the philosopher under discussion that shed light on the seminar theme. Each student will lead the discussion three times during the semester. Together, these outline presentations count for 30% of the semester grade. By mid-semester you will also be responsible for completing a 10-page paper on Leibniz's treatment of substance (another 30% of the final grade). The final term paper will be a more in-depth (20-page) paper on that same topic in Berkeley or in Berkeley and Leibniz. The final paper is worth 40% of the final grade.

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11-12:30; 2:30-3:30 Phone: 845-5619 (office); 846-4649 (home) email: sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu Web: www-phil.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/661sy03c.html
