

Syllabus for PHIL 412.200: 17th Century Philosophy (Honors)

Tuesday & Thursday: 11:10-12:25 (YMCA 115)

Spring 2012; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel

In the **History of Modern Philosophy** you will develop the skills needed to write and speak effectively about major themes and figures of 17th-century philosophy. This means being able to identify issues, explain the reasoning behind positions and arguments, evaluate objections raised against those arguments, and formulate replies to those objections. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook: *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. Supplementary readings are available at the Evans Library Course Reserves website <http://library-reserves.tamu.edu/areslocal/index.htm> or already bound at Notes-n-Quotes (across University Blvd from Blocker). Recommended: F. Copleston, *History of Philosophy*, vol. 4.

<u>Jan.</u>	17	Introduction	<u>Mar.</u>	20	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 210-212, 234-45
	19	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> I-II: 1-3, 27-34		22	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 245-57
	24	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> III-IV: 34-45		27	Leibniz/Arnauld 258-67
	26	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> V-VI: 45-55		29	Leibniz/Arnauld 267-74
		Extra pts (4): <u>Mersenne/Descartes, Obj II</u>, course link 73-81 (due Jan. 29)			Essay 3: Truths/New System 275-84 (due Apr. 1)
	31	Hobbes/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> III: 56, 63-70	<u>Apr.</u>	3	Leibniz/Bayle, reserves 194-208
<u>Feb.</u>	2	Arnauld/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> IV: 70-80		5	Leibniz, <i>Nature & Grace</i> , reserves 258-66
	7	Elizabeth/Descartes, reserves 140-44		10	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> 285-93
	9	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> 128-39		12	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , reserves 1-2, 17-23, 31-33, 42-50
		Essay 1: Hobbes, Lev 139-50 (due Feb. 12)			Essay 4: Locke, reserves 50-61 (due Apr. 15)
	14	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> 213-22		17	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , reserves 61-75
	16	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> 222-33		19	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , reserves 75-85
	21	Arnauld, <i>True & False Ideas</i> , reserves 5-24		24	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , reserves 85-98
	23	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> 126-27, 151-57	<u>May</u>	26	Leibniz/Locke, <i>New Essays</i> , reserves 115-26
		Essay 2: Spinoza, Ethics 158-71 (due Feb. 26)		1	[No class: redefined Friday class]
	28	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> 171-84		4	(Friday) Early paper submissions due
<u>Mar.</u>	1	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> 184-201		7	(Monday) Final exam 8:00-10:00 (in class)
	6	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> 201-209		9	(Wednesday) Paper final versions due, noon
	8	Mid-semester exam (in class)			

The semester grade is based on:

- Four 500-word essays on questions based on readings (10 pts each); due as email attachments by midnight.
- Mid-semester and final exams: two previously announced questions each (20 pts each).
- 10-page research paper (20 points). If you write a 20-page paper instead (for 30 pts), you can drop one of the questions on the final exam. Guidelines for the paper are attached to this sheet.
- There is no grade for attendance or participation, but both affect the grading of essays and exams.
- You need to **outline readings** before each class (based on questions I provide) to prepare to discuss in class the main claims, arguments, objections, and unclear issues. If you don't understand something in the reading, **consult with others** on the course Facebook site **before** class so that you are prepared.
- If you miss a class or are not prepared to discuss a reading in class when called on, you need to send me a 300-word essay on the reading before the next class (unless you've made other arrangements with me). This is to make sure you don't get behind. You can lose points if you don't turn in the essay.
- If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact me immediately. My expectations of the quality of essays rise if essays are submitted past deadlines; grades are assessed accordingly.
- Minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 57=D.

Office hours (YMCA 417): Tues/Thurs 10-11, 2-5 (3:30 on Dept colloquium days). **Phone:** 845-5619 (office), 324-4199 (cell). **Email:** sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu. **Class website:** philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/412sy12a.html.

Students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Dept of Student Life, [Disability Services](#), Cain Hall B118, or call 845-1637.

Students are bound by the Aggie honor code not to lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do. If you violate the code (e.g., by plagiarizing something from the Internet), you will fail the course. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.