



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

Monday & Wednesday: 5:45-7:00 (YMCA 115)

Fall 2013; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



In the **17th Century Philosophy** (Honors) course, students analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments of early modern thinkers and learn how to frame and answer questions about knowledge, nature, mind, freedom, and God. In this way, they enhance their thinking skills and problem-solving abilities. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbooks: *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, vol. 1, ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. **Supplementary readings** are in a bound packet at Notes-n-Quotes (on University Blvd). Recommended: F. Copleston, *History of Philosophy*, vol. 4.

<p><u>Aug.</u> 26 Introduction</p> <p>28 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> I-II: 1-3, 27-34</p> <p><u>Sept.</u> 2 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> III-IV: 34-45</p> <p>4 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> V-VI: 45-55</p> <p>(6) Descartes' critics: Mersenne (Obj II) and Elizabeth, readings 73-81, 140-44 (4 pts)</p> <p>9 Hobbes/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> III: 56, 63-70</p> <p>11 Arnauld/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> IV: 70-80</p> <p>(13) Arnauld, True & False Ideas, readings 5-24</p> <p>16 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.1-4: 128-39</p> <p>18 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.5, III.34, IV.46: 139-50</p> <p>23 Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> 213-22</p> <p>25 Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> 222-33</p> <p>(27) Essay 2: Spinoza, Letters 126-27, 151-57</p> <p>30 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip1-31: 158-71</p> <p>Oct. 2 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip32-Iip13: 171-84</p> <p>7 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Iip14-49: 184-201</p> <p>9 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Vp21-42: 201-209</p> <p>14 Mid-semester exam (in class)</p>	<p><u>Oct.</u> 16 Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 1-18: 210-212, 234-45</p> <p>21 Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 19-37: 245-57</p> <p>23 Leibniz/Arnauld 258-67</p> <p>(25) Essay 3: Leibniz/Arnauld 267-74</p> <p>28 Leibniz, Truths/New System 275-84</p> <p>30 Leibniz/Bayle, readings 194-208</p> <p><u>Nov.</u> 4 Leibniz, <i>Nature & Grace</i>, readings 258-66</p> <p>6 Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> 285-93</p> <p>(8) Essay 4: Locke, Essay II.1-3, 9-11, 21 (readings 1-2, 17-23, 31-33, 42-50)</p> <p>11 Locke, Essay II.22-23 (readings 50-61)</p> <p>13 Locke, Essay II.27, III.3 (readings 61-75)</p> <p>18 Locke, Essay III.6, IV.1-2 (readings 75-85)</p> <p>20 Locke, Essay IV.3-4 (readings 85-98)</p> <p>25 Leibniz/Locke, <i>New Essays</i>, readings 115-26</p> <p>27 [No class: Thanksgiving holiday]</p> <p><u>Dec.</u> 2 [No class: redefined Friday]; paper drafts due</p> <p>6 (Friday) Final exam 7:30-9:30 a.m. (in class)</p> <p>11 (Wednesday) Paper final versions due, noon</p>
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- The **semester grade** is based on:
 - four 500-word essays on reading questions (10 pts each); due at Assignments on eCampus.tamu.edu Friday midnight.
 - mid-semester and final exams: two previously announced questions each (10 pts/question).
 - 10-page research paper (20 points). Consult the [Guidelines for a Philosophy Research Paper](#).
 - Four extra possible points for answers to [reading questions](#) on Sept.6.
 - There is no separate grade for attendance or participation but both affect grading of essays and exams.
 - You should outline readings before each class (based on [the questions in the readings packet](#)) to prepare to discuss in class the main claims, arguments, and objections. If something in the reading puzzles you, consult with others (e.g., in the Discussion page of [eCampus](#)) *before class* so that you are prepared.
 - If you miss a class, send me short answers to the posted questions so that I can provide you feedback and you don't get behind. 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: 89=A, 79=B, 69=C, 58=D.

Office hours (YMCA 417): Mon/Wed 11:30-3:00. **Phone:** 845-5619 (office), 324-4199 (cell); sdaniel@tamu.edu.
Web: philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/.

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 fail the course. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.