



## Syllabus for PHIL 412.500: 17th Century Philosophy

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:35-10:50 (YMCA 113)

Fall 2014; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



**Course Description and Objectives.** In 17<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy students learn to analyze and critically evaluate major thinkers (e.g., Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke) who set the stage for later discussions of mind, nature, freedom, knowledge, and God. By interpreting their works in light of secondary literature, students also develop the ability to identify quality scholarship and incorporate it into their writing and speaking. The course has no prerequisites.

**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.

<u>Sept.</u>	2	Historical Introduction	<u>Oct.</u>	28	Cavendish, <i>Philosophical Letters</i> , 77-79, 94-101, 143-49
	4	“Modern” Philosophy, Readings xi-xxi		30	Anne Conway, <i>Principles</i> 56-59, 63-70
	9	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> I-II: 1-3, 27-34	<u>Nov.</u>	(2)	<b>Essay 2: Cavendish-Conway comparison</b>
	11	*Descartes <i>Meditations</i> III-IV: 34-45		4	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 1-18: 210-212, 234-45
	16	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> V-VI: 45-55		6	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 19-37: 245-57
	18	Hobbes/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> III: 56, 63-70		11	*Leibniz, <i>Truths/New System</i> 275-84
	23	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.1-4: 128-39		13	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> 285-93
	25	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.5, III.34, IV.46: 139-50		18	*Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.1-3, 9-11, 21 (readings 1-2, 17-23, 31-33, 42-50)
	30	Arnauld/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> IV: 70-80 & Readings 19-24		20	Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.22-23 (readings 50-61)
<u>Oct.</u>	2	*Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.1-4, 6; pp. 213-22		25	Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.27, III.3 (readings 61-75)
	7	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.7 & <i>Elucidation</i> 15; pp. 222-33	<u>Dec.</u>	2	[No class: Thanksgiving holiday]
	9	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip1-31: 158-71		2	Locke, <i>Essay</i> III.6, IV.1-2 (readings 75-85)
	(12)	<b>Essay 1: Spinoza on Substance/Attribute</b>		4	Locke, <i>Essay</i> IV.3-4 (readings 85-98)
	14	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip32-IIp13: 171-84		(7)	<b>Research paper due, midnight#</b>
	16	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> IIp14-49: 184-201		9	Leibniz/Locke, <a href="#">New Essays Preface, readings 115-26</a>
	21	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Vp21-42: 201-209		12	(Friday) <b>Final exam 12:30-2:30</b> (in class)
	23	<b>Mid-semester exam</b> (in class)			

#See [Guidelines for Philosophy Research Papers](#)

- The **semester grade** is based on:
  - answers to four sets of questions on marked (\*) days, due at Assignments on [eCampus before class](#) (23 pts)
  - two 500-word essays based on readings (10 pts each): due at Assignments on [eCampus](#) Sunday midnight.
  - mid-semester and final essay exams (20 pts each).
  - a 10-page research paper (20 points).
- There is no separate grade for attendance or participation, but both can affect your mastery of the material. [Student Rule 7](#) notes that you are expected to attend all classes.
- You should prepare answers to reading questions *before* each class (using the [questions in the reading packets](#)) to prepare to discuss the central claims, arguments, and objections regarding the issues covered.
- 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, but you should definitely still turn in assignments even after they are due.
- Minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 57=D.

**Office hours** (YMCA 417): Tues/Thurs 11:00-2:00. **Phone:** 845-5619 (office), 324-4199 (cell); **email** [sdaniel@tamu.edu](mailto:sdaniel@tamu.edu). **Web:** [philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/](http://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/>.