



Syllabus for PHIL 412.500: 17th Century Philosophy

Monday & Wednesday: 4:10-5:25 (YMCA 113)

Fall 2015; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



Course Description and Objectives. In 17th 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 (Texas Ave Eastgate). Recommended: F. Copleston, *History of Philosophy*, vol. 4.

<p><u>Aug.</u> 31 “Modern” Philosophy, readings xi-xxi</p> <p><u>Sept.</u> 2 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> I-II: 1-3, 27-34</p> <p>7 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> III-IV: 34-45</p> <p>9 Descartes <i>Meditations</i> V-VI: 45-55</p> <p>14 Hobbes/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> III: 56, 63-70</p> <p>16 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.1-4: 128-39</p> <p>21 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.5, III.34, IV.46: 139-50</p> <p>23 Arnauld/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> IV: 70-80 & readings 5-7, 19-24</p> <p>28 Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.1-4, 6; pp. 213-22</p> <p>30 Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.7 & <i>Elucidation</i> 15; pp. 222-33</p> <p><u>Oct.</u> 5 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip1-31: 158-71</p> <p>7 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip32-Ip13: 171-84</p> <p>12 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip14-49: 184-201</p> <p>14 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Vp21-42: 201-209</p> <p>19 Mid-semester exam (in class)</p> <p>21 Cavendish, <i>Philosophical Letters</i> 77-79, 94-101, 143-49</p> <p>26 Anne Conway, <i>Principles</i> 56-59, 63-70</p>	<p><u>Oct.</u> 28 Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 1-18: 210-212, 234-45</p> <p><u>Nov.</u> 2 Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 19-37: 245-57</p> <p>4 Leibniz, Truths/New System 275-84</p> <p>9 Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> 285-93</p> <p>11 Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.1-3, 9-11, 21 (readings 1-2, 17-23, 31-33, 42-50)</p> <p>16 Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.22-23 (readings 50-61)</p> <p>18 Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.27, III.3 (readings 61-75)</p> <p>(21) Bibliographic Outline due Saturday midnight*</p> <p>23 Locke, <i>Essay</i> III.6, IV.1-2 (readings 75-85)</p> <p>(25) (No class: Wednesday before Thanksgiving)</p> <p>30 Locke, <i>Essay</i> IV.3-4 (readings 85-98)</p> <p><u>Dec.</u> 2 Leibniz/Locke, <i>New Essays</i> Preface, readings 115-26</p> <p>(6) Research paper due Sunday midnight#</p> <p>(7) (Redefined Friday)</p> <p>14 (Monday) Final exam 3:30-5:30 (in class)</p>
---	---

*See [Guidelines for Bibliographic Outline](#)

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

§See [Research Paper Selections](#)

- The **semester grade** is based on:
 - answers to daily class [reading questions](#) turned in at “Assignments” on [eCampus](#) starting on Sept 7 (112 pts). Correct answers submitted before class are 1 pt each; inadequate/incomplete answers submitted before class can be revised after class (until noon the following day) for 1 pt. If you do not submit a reasonable (even if inadequate) answer before class, you can still get ½ pt for an answer submitted by noon the following day.
 - mid-semester and final essay exams (20 pts each).
 - an annotated bibliography (20 pts) that is the basis of a 10-page research paper (30 points).
- There is no 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.
- If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact me immediately. My expectations of the quality of submissions rise if they are submitted past deadlines, but you should definitely still turn in assignments even after they are due (but no more than two weeks late) for possible partial credit.
- Total pts: 202. Minimum grades: 177=A, 157=B, 137=C, 117=D.

Dr. Daniel office hrs (YMCA 417): Mon & Wed: 12:00-1:30, 2:45-4:00. **Phone:** 979-324-4199 (cell); **Email:** 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact [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/>.