



Syllabus for PHIL 412.900: 17th Century Philosophy

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

Spring 2014; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



Course Description and Objectives. In 17th Century Philosophy students learn to analyze and critically evaluate modern philosophers (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 is a writing intensive course and 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>Jan.</u>	14	Introduction	<u>Mar.</u>	18	More/Cavendish (Duncan article)
	16	Writing skills for modern philosophy		20	Anne Conway (Broad article)
	[19	Corrected <u>essay</u> turned in by midnight]*		25	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 1-18: 210-212, 234-45
	21	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> I-II: 1-3, 27-34		27	Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> 19-37: 245-57
	23	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> III-IV: 34-45		[30	Leibniz on Corporeal Substance debate: Hartz and Look articles]
	28	Descartes <i>Meditations</i> V-VI: 45-55	<u>Apr.</u>	1	Leibniz, Truths/New System 275-84
	30	Hobbes/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> III: 56, 63-70		3	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> 285-93
Feb.	[2	Descartes Mind-Body debate: Garber and Brown articles]		8	Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.1-3, 9-11, 21 (readings 1-2, 17-23, 31-33, 42-50)
	4	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.1-4: 128-39		10	Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.22-23 (readings 50-61)
	6	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> I.5, III.34, IV.46: 139-50		[13	Locke on Personal Identity debate: Alston/Bennett and Stuart articles]
	11	Arnauld/Descartes, <i>Obj</i> IV: 70-80, readings packet 19-24		15	Locke, <i>Essay</i> II.27, III.3 (readings 61-75)
	13	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.1-4, 6; pp. 213-22		17	Locke, <i>Essay</i> III.6, IV.1-2 (readings 75-85)
	[16	Malebranche Occasionalism debate: Ott and Lee articles]		22	Locke, <i>Essay</i> IV.3-4 (readings 85-98)
	18	Malebranche, <i>Search after Truth</i> III.2.7 & <i>Elucidation</i> 15; pp. 222-33		24	Leibniz/Locke, <i>New Essays</i> Preface, readings 115-26
	20	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip1-31: 158-71		29	[No class: redefined Friday class]
	25	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip32-Ip13: 171-84	<u>May</u>	2	(Friday) Final exam 12:30-2:30 (in class)
	27	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Ip14-49: 184-201		7	(Wednesday) Research paper due*
<u>Mar.</u>	4	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Vp21-42: 201-209			
	6	Mid-semester exam (in class)			

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

- The **semester grade** is based on:
 - four 500-word essays that summarize and reconcile supplied articles (10 pts each): turned in at “Assignments” on eCampus.tamu.edu 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 outline readings before each class (based on the [questions](#) in the readings packet and on the [course website](#)) to prepare to discuss in class the main claims, arguments, and objections. If something in the reading puzzles you, consult with others (e.g., on the Discussion page of [eCampus](#)) *before class* so that you are prepared.
- 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.
- Minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 57=D.

Office hours (YMCA 417): Tues/Thurs 11:00-1:00, 2:00-3:30. **Phone:** 845-5619 (office), 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 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/>.