

Syllabus for PHIL 413.500: History of Modern Philosophy

Spring 2010; 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- and 18th-century philosophy (Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant). 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.

Required Texts: *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, vols. I & II, ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (Hackett)
Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics by Immanuel Kant, tr. Carus/Ellington (Hackett)

Recommended Text: *The History of Philosophy*, by Frederick Copleston; vols. 4-6: *Modern Philosophy* (Vol. 4: *Descartes to Leibniz*; Vol. 5: *Hobbes to Hume*; Vol. 6: *French Enlightenment to Kant*)

<u>Jan.</u>	19	Introduction	<u>Mar.</u>	23	Locke: Essay (70-85)
	21	Descartes Med I-II (27-34)		25	Berkeley: Dialogues (175-95)
	26	Descartes: Med III-IV (34-45)		30	Berkeley: Dialogues (195-205)
	28	Descartes: Med V-VI (45-55)	<u>Apr.</u>	1	Berkeley: Dialogues (205-223)
<u>Feb.</u>	2	Hobbes/Descartes: Obj III (63-70)		6	Test 2
	4	Hobbes: Leviathan (128-39)		8	Hume: Enquiry (328-49)
	9	Hobbes: Leviathan (139-50)		13	Hume: Enquiry (349-69)
	11	Spinoza: Ethics (158-78)		15	Hume: Enquiry (380-94)
	16	Spinoza: Ethics (178-95)		20	Kant: Prolegomena 1-34
	18	Spinoza: Ethics (195-209)		22	Kant: Prolegomena 35-63
	23	Test 1		27	Kant: Prolegomena 64-84
	25	Leibniz: Discourse (234-45)		29	Kant: Prolegomena 85-116
<u>Mar.</u>	2	Leibniz: Discourse (245-57)	<u>May</u>	4	[No class: redefined Friday class]
	4	Leibniz: Monadology (285-93)		7	(Friday) Final exam 12:30-2:30
	9	Locke: Essay (17-34)			
	11	Locke: Essay (42-61)			

Cell phones must be turned off during class.

Grades are based on two tests, the final exam, and a 1000-word essay on an instructor-approved reading from the textbook other than what the class at large is discussing. Each of the four assignments is worth 25% of the course grade. Details on the essay requirements will be announced in class. There is no separate grade for attendance or participation, but demonstration of class preparedness affects the grading of tests and essays.

Office (Bolton 302-B)
Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:30, 2:15-3:30
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- 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; no second chances. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>.