The consideration of substance,” Leibniz remarks, “is of the greatest importance and fruitfulness for philosophy”; and he claims that failure to understand the nature of substance is the cause of Descartes’ errors and Spinoza’s paradoxes. Admittedly, Descartes’ distinction between thinking and extended substance, Spinoza’s identification of substance with God, Malebranche’s and Bayle’s occasionalist account of finite substances, Leibniz’s doctrine of the trans-temporal identity of substances, and Locke’s notion of substance as the “we know not what” support of qualities, all are central puzzles in early modern philosophy. The purpose of the seminar is explore these puzzles and their effect on discussions of God, individuation, freedom, and causation. It also will consider the background for issues of concern to contemporary metaphysicians (e.g., identity, essentialism, and tropes).

Texts: Philosophical Writings of Descartes, trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, Murdoch (CSM), 3 vols.  
The Collected Works of Spinoza, vol. 1, ed. E.M. Curley  
Philosophical Texts by G. W. Leibniz (ed. Francks and Woolhouse) [PT]  
Malebranche: Philosophical Selections, ed. Steven Nadler  
An Essay concerning Human Understanding by John Locke, ed. Peter H. Nidditch

For more of a general background in the issues of the period, consult Frederick Copleston’s History of Philosophy, vols. 4 and 5. (You might order vol. 6 on the French Enlightenment and Kant as well.)

| Aug. 31 | Background: Aristotle’s Categories and Metaphysics: primary substances, inherence, independence. Pasnau, “Form, Substance, and Mechanism” |
9 Descartes: Meditations Synopsis, Med. II, III; Rozemond, Descartes’ Dualism, ch. 1 & 4  
14 Descartes: Objections and Replies II, IV (Arnauld); Hoffman, “Descartes’ Theory of Distinctions” (T. J.)  
16 Descartes: Med. VI: M. Stuart, “Descartes’ Extended Substance”; Sowaal, “Cartesian Bodies” (Amber)  
| Sept.  7 | Spinoza: Ethics I.1-8; Method/Substance; Lin, “Substance, Attribute, and Mode in Spinoza”  
12 Spinoza: Ethics I.9-25: Attributes; Della Rocca, “Spinoza’s Substance Monism” (Jen)  
15 Spinoza: Ethics I.26-Appendix; Curley, Behind the Geometrical Method, ch. 1  
19 Spinoza: Ethics II:1-31; Carriero, “Relationship between Mode & Substance in Spinoza’s Metaphysics” (Anton)  
21 Leibniz: De Summa Rerum, Discourse on Metaphysics; Woolhouse, Introduction to Leibniz: Philosophical Texts, 5-49; Flemming, “On Leibniz on Subject and Substance” (Murat)  
28 Leibniz-Arnauld Correspondence; Sleigh, Leibniz and Arnauld, ch. 5 (Mural)  
Oct.  5 | Spinoza: Ethics II.13-31; Carriero, “Relationship between Mode & Substance in Spinoza’s Metaphysics”  
19 Leibniz: De Summa Rerum, Discourse on Metaphysics; Woolhouse, Introduction to Leibniz: Philosophical Texts, 5-49; Flemming, “On Leibniz on Subject and Substance” |
28 Leibniz-Arnauld Correspondence; Sleigh, Leibniz and Arnauld, ch. 5 (Mural)  
4 Malebranche: Search After Truth III.2.6-9, IV.11; Elucidations 10, 12, 15; Lee, “Passive Natures”;  
Bardout, “Metaphysics and Philosophy” (Jen)  
9 Malebranche: Dialogues on Metaphysics I-V, VII-VIII, X.9; Pessin, “Malebranche on Ideas”  
11 Bayle: Dictionary “Spinoza” entry; Ryan, Bayle’s Cartesian Metaphysics 63-85; Ryan, “Bayle’s Critique of Locke in Superaddition” |
| Nov.  4 | Malebranche: Search After Truth III.2.6-9, IV.11; Elucidations 10, 12, 15; Lee, “Passive Natures”;  
Bardout, “Metaphysics and Philosophy” (Jen)  
9 Malebranche: Dialogues on Metaphysics I-V, VII-VIII, X.9; Pessin, “Malebranche on Ideas”  
11 Bayle: Dictionary “Spinoza” entry; Ryan, Bayle’s Cartesian Metaphysics 63-85; Ryan, “Bayle’s Critique of Locke in Superaddition” |
| Nov.  16 | Locke: First Letter to Stillingfleet (Works IV: 3-40, 70-96); Yaffe, “Locke on Ideas of Substance”  
23 Locke: Third Letter to Stillingfleet (Works IV: 293-307); Jordan, “Locke on ‘Substance in General’” [25] [No class: Thanksgiving]  
18 Locke: First Letter to Stillingfleet (Works IV: 3-40, 70-96); Yaffe, “Locke on Ideas of Substance”  
23 Locke: Third Letter to Stillingfleet (Works IV: 293-307); Jordan, “Locke on ‘Substance in General’”
30  Locke: *Third Letter to Stillingfleet* (*Works* IV.442-78); McCann, “Locke on Substance”

Dec. 2  Locke: Essay II.21 (power/freedom); Bolton, “Locke and Leibniz on the Structure of Substance”

7 (Amber)  Leibniz on Locke: *New Essays* II.23.2; Jolley, *Leibniz and Locke* ch. 5 & 8

15  (Wednesday) **Term paper due**

**Presentations/Papers/Grades:** seminar members will prepare a 5- to 6-page outline of primary texts and secondary sources twice during the semester. Together, these outline presentations count for 30% of the semester grade. A 10-page paper is due at mid-semester (30%) and a 20-page paper (on another figure) at the end of the semester (40%).

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