

## 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Modern) Philosophy

<b>Course Prefix, Number, Section and CRN:</b> PHIL 379, section 1, CRN 30977	<b>Credit Hours:</b> 4
<b>Semester:</b> Spring 2015	<b>Course Location:</b> Animas 6101
<b>Course Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b> Tuesday/Thursdays 10:10-12:10	<b>Course Format:</b> Lecture/discussion

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Justin P. McBrayer

**Office Location:** Noble Hall 216

**Office Hours:** 9:00-10:00 TR; 9:00-12 W; other times by appointment

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**Course Description:** Western philosophy is typically divided into four historical periods: ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary. This course is a survey of philosophical thought in the modern period which covers roughly the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The bulk of the course is spent reading primary material from seven major figures: Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Reid, and Kant. We will be reading these primary texts with a dual aim: (a) accurate exegesis of the texts (e.g. what is Descartes' argument for the existence of a soul?) and (b) critical evaluation (e.g. is Descartes' argument for the existence of a soul sound?) The themes of the course follow the three major themes of philosophical thought in the West: epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.

**Course goals for the Philosophy Program:** As a course in historical philosophy, the primary outcome of this course is an ability to recognize and articulate how philosophical theories and arguments developed historically in response to other philosophical ideas, historical events, and cultural contexts (Philosophy Program Learning Outcome #2). However, secondary outcomes of this course include the honing of a student's ability to identify and critically evaluate arguments (Philosophy Program Learning Outcome #4) and the continued development of a student's written communication skills as they relate to the presentation of philosophical arguments in a clear and convincing way (Philosophy Program Learning Outcome #5).

**Assessment:** The grade for this course is determined by whether a student meets the course goals in a timely fashion. As with all philosophy, this is largely a measurement of a student's understanding of the concepts presented and his ability to articulate arguments regarding various philosophical positions. Grades are tracked on Canvas. Plus/minus grading will be used. Grades will not be curved. The grading scale is the standard scale (90's A-range, 80's B-range...59 and lower is an F). Final grades will be determined by the following weighted averages:

*Exams*- there will be a midterm exam and a final (non-cumulative) exam. Each will be open book with the following restrictions: (a) there are no substantive notes in the margins, (b) electronic versions only via PDF's open in full view of professor. Each exam is worth 20%.

*Papers*- there are two critical essay assignments (details later). Each is worth 15%.

*Argument Reconstruction Exercises*- You are responsible for locating an argument in the assigned text and reconstructing it on your own for every class period we meet. There must be a typed argument in premise/conclusion form with the name of the valid inference pattern and accompanied by the relevant page of the primary text with an indication of where each premise is found in the material. These exercises will be collected at random and graded for both charity and accuracy according to the following rubric:

Check plus = 100%

Check = 75%

Check minus = 50%

Zero = 0%

I will not accept these exercises after class or by e-mail. Additionally, they cannot be made up for any reason, though in the interest of fairness I will drop at least one of your lowest scores from the overall average at the end of the term. The average of these exercises is worth 30%.

### Course Resources:

#### Required Texts

Course Pack with primary sources from [www.earlymoderntexts.com](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com)

*The Rise of Modern Philosophy: A New History of Western Philosophy*, Volume 3, Anthony Kenny (Oxford 2006)

*Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy*, 3e, Garrett Thomson (Waveland 2012)

For next time: <http://projectvox.library.duke.edu/pg/> or check out the hackett edition with women philosophers

#### Recommended Texts

*Philosophical Writing*, 3e, A.P. Martinich (2005 Blackwell)

### Course Expectations:

**Academic Dishonesty**- All work submitted for credit should be the student's own. Failure to follow this policy will result in a failing grade for the course. It is the student's responsibility to know both the standards for academic honesty and what counts as plagiarism. The full policy is available here: <http://www.fortlewis.edu/portals/12/docs/PART-III-Academic-Dishonesty.pdf>

**Attendance**- There is not an official attendance policy, though, as always, there will be a strong (and positive!) correlation between strong performance in the course and regular attendance. Also, since argument reconstruction exercises are due in class (and not, say, by e-mail), attendance is a necessary condition for a graded component of the course. Regular participation can improve a student's final grade for the course.

**Civility**- Classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples include routinely entering class late or departing early; making or receiving phone calls; texting;

surfing the internet; repeatedly talking in class without being recognized; talking while others are speaking.

**Disability Services:** Fort Lewis College is committed to providing all students a liberal arts education through a personalized learning environment. If you think you have or you do have a documented disability which will need reasonable academic accommodations, please contact the Director of Disability Services for an appointment as soon as possible (280 Noble Hall, 970.247.7459).

**Course Schedule:**

Jan. 13            An Introduction to the Modern Period  
                      *The Rise of Modern Philosophy*, Chapter 1

Descartes

Jan. 15            3-Minute Philosophy: Rene Descartes (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHihkRwisbE>)  
                      *The Rise of Modern Philosophy*, Chapter 2  
                      *The Meditations* 1 & 2  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 1

Jan. 20            *The Meditations* 3 & 4  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 2

Jan. 22            *The Meditations* 5 & 6 [covered by Sarah Roberts-Cady]  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 3

Leibniz

Jan. 27            *Real-Life Dialogue on Human Freedom and the Origin of Evil*  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 7

Jan. 29            *Monadology*, § 1-35  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 8

Feb. 3             *Monadology*, § 36-90  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 9

**Feb. 4             First paper due by 11:59!**

Locke

Feb. 5             3-Minute Philosophy: John Locke (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-buzVjYQvY&feature=relmfu>)  
                      *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book I  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 13

Feb. 10            *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book IV, § i-vi  
                      Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 15

- Feb. 12      *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book IV, § ix-xv (skip vii & viii)
- Feb. 17      *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book IV, § xvi-xx (skip xxi)
- Feb. 19      **Midterm Exam**** Recommended: read relevant portions of chapters 4-10 in *The Rise of Modern Philosophy* to prepare for midterm
- Feb. 24      *Second Treatise of Government*, Preface & Chapters 1-3  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 16
- Feb. 26      *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 4-5
- March 3      *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 6-7
- March 5      *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 8-11

### Berkeley

- March 10      *The First Dialogue*  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 17
- March 12      *The Second Dialogue*  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 18

### Hume

- March 17      *The Rise in Modern Philosophy*, Chapter 3  
3-Minute Philosophy: David Hume (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3QZ2Ko-F0g&feature=relmfu>)  
*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, § 1-3  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 19
- March 19      *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, § 4-5  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 20
- March 20      **Second paper due by 11:59!****
- March 23-27      **Spring break!****
- March 31      *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, § 6-8 (skip § 10)

- April 2      *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, § 10-11

### Reid

- April 7      § 2 of Stanford Encyclopedia entry on Thomas Reid  
[<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reid/>]

“The Problem of Perceptual Knowledge,” Michael Huemer, on Canvas

April 9      *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, Essay 4, Chapters 1-5

April 14     *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, Essay 4, Chapters 6-11

Kant

April 16      3- Minute Philosophy: Immanuel Kant  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwOCmJevigw&feature=relmfu>)  
*Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface and Chapter 1  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 28

April 21      *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, § 1-5  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapter 24

April 23      *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, § 6-13 (including all three notes to §13)  
Recommended: *Bacon to Kant*, Chapters 25-26

**Monday, April 27, 12:00**      **Final Exam** Recommended: read relevant portions of chapters 4-10 in *The Rise of Modern Philosophy* to prepare for final exam