



Week 7.5:
Part I Conclusion
and Pascal

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Weekly Quiz

Part I: C17th
Conclusion

Blaise Pascal

Biography

Film

Week 7.5: Part I Conclusion (and Pascal)

Takaharu Oda, PhD (odat@tcd.ie)

Southern University of Science and Technology
SS149 (社会科学中心), Spring 2024

Early Modern Western Philosophy (17th-18th Centuries)

近代西方哲学（十七-十八世纪）



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A Quiz from the Last Week

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Quiz 7: In (propositional/predicate) logic, what does the symbol \neg stand for?

- ① Negation ['not']
- ② Disjunction ['or']
- ③ Conjunction ['and']
- ④ Implication or entailment

This is not related to your final grade, but intended to observe your understanding of the last class.



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Quiz 7: In (propositional/predicate) logic, what does the symbol \neg stand for?

- ① Negation ['not'] \neg / \sim (Check Locke's argument for thinking body that Astell rejects [Disjunctive Syllogism], the Lecture 1 slide 'vocabulary', etc.)
- ② Disjunction ['or'] \vee
- ③ Conjunction ['and'] \wedge / \cdot
- ④ Implication or entailment ['if ..., then ...'] \supset / \rightarrow

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Part I: 17th-Century Philosophy

- What can we know and how can we know it?
- What is the mind and how is it related to the body?
- What is the nature of body?
 - ♣ Is it purely passive or also somehow active?
 - ♣ Are all of its perceived qualities equally real/objective?
- What kinds of causal relations could possibly exist in the world?
- Do reason and science support religion or contradict it?



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Le musée Carnavalet – Paris
(Portrait approx. 1650)



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(Portrait approx. 1650)

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- **1631** – Moves to Paris, educated by his father: a child prodigy in mathematics.
- **1642** – *Pascaline(s)*: Pascal's arithmetic calculators; eight of them survive.
- **1651** – Affected by his younger sister Jacqueline's conversion to **Jansenism**.
- **1656–57** – *Lettres provinciales* (defence of the Jansenist Antoine Arnauld at Port-Royal-des-Champs): placed on the Church's prohibiting *Index* in 1657, burnt by order of Louis XIV in 1660.
- **1661** – The monastery at Port-Royal forbidden to accept novices, heralding its later dissolution (the Jesuits' attack).
- **19 August 1662** – Dies in Paris: 39yo.
- **1670** – *Pensées [Thoughts]* (incomplete)



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The heresy of Jansenism *within* Catholicism

- After the Dutch theologian Jansen
- Influence of Calvinism (esp. original sin)
- Augustinian doctrine of **efficacious grace** in place of human **free will**: viz. **moral determinism (pessimism)**

later dissolution (the Jesuits' attack).

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La logique, ou l'art de penser (aka *Port-Royal Logic*) by Arnauld and Nicole (1662) – Cartesianism and Aristotelian logic

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Famous points

- 'A human being is only a reed, the weakest in nature, but he is a thinking reed.' (§231: 人是一根會思考的蘆葦)
- Pascal's wager (§680) – pragmatic belief (betting) in God, instead of disbelieving. Cf. Hájek (2018) 'The (in)validity of ...'
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Téléfilm par Roberto Rossellini

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Blaise Pascal (1972)