

PHIL 202: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy,
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30AM-12:45PM
Instructor: Apaar Kumar
Office Hours: Humanities Hall 205, every Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00PM-5:15PM
Email: akumar6@emory.edu

Content: This is a survey course relating to issues in metaphysics and epistemology in the key texts of 17th and 18th century Western philosophy. We will concern ourselves with the questions of the nature, source and limits of knowledge; the nature of the mind and its relationship to the body; the nature of personal identity; the nature and extent of free will; and the relationship between faith and reason.

Texts:

Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*. Fourth Edition. Donald A. Cress (translator). Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998.

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan* (On Reserve)

Baruch Spinoza, *The Ethics*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1991.

Leibniz, Gottfried. *Discourse on Metaphysics & Monadology* (On Reserve)

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Kenneth P Winkler (editor). Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996.

George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*. Kenneth Winkler (editor). Indianapolis: Hackett, 1982.

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Human Understanding*. Eric Steinberg (editor). Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Come Forward As a Science*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002.

Course Requirements:

(1) Honor Code: It is assumed that you are familiar with the honor code and understand the implications of academic misconduct. Cheating on exams and quizzes will not be tolerated. If you're caught cheating on the quizzes and exams, you will be referred to the honor council.

(2) Absence Policy: You will not be penalized for absences if there is a valid reason and if you have informed me in advance. In cases of illness, a letter from the Student Health Center is required. Three unexcused absences will cost you a letter grade.

(3) Requirements:

(a) As is usually the case, you will read the material in advance before we discuss it in class – so, for instance, when you come to class on January 19th you will have read the required pages from Descartes

(b) To ensure that you come prepared to class, I will assign homework after every class (via the learnlink conference). You will have to send me this work via email to the following address: akumar6@emory.edu with the subject heading "Phil202: [Author] HW." The homework assigned for a Tuesday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Monday, and the homework assigned for a Thursday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Wednesday. For the most part, homework will be directly related to the reading assigned for a class.

(c) The pace of the course will be dictated by our progress in class, and the syllabus may have to be changed to accommodate it. New versions of the syllabus (if required) will be sent to you in advance via the learnlink conference. CHECKING THE LEARNLINK CONFERENCE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

(d) There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. You will also be required to write a 10-12 page essay comparing and contrasting two authors on a particular issue that they both discuss. You WILL have to rewrite this essay. There will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless you have a genuine reason for missing them (refer to Absence policy above).

(e) Grading: Overall grades for the course will be calculated according to the following 1000-point scale:

A=	950-1000	B-=	800-832	D=	600-699
A-=	900-949	C+=	767-799	F=	Less than 600
B+=	867-899	C=	733-766		
B=	833-866	C-=	700-732		

The grade distribution is as follows:

Essay:	30% of the Grade
Final Exam:	25% of the Grade
Midterm:	20% of the Grade
Homework:	15% of the Grade
Class participation:	10% of the Grade

(f) Grading Policy: (i) Grading Homework: If you regularly do the work honestly and send it to me in time, you will get 15% of the grade. Every time you fail to do so, you will lose 10 points.

(ii) Grading the Exams & the Essay: Grading is relative to the class. I will give the best exam/essay an A, and grade the rest in terms of this exam/essay.

Reading Schedule

January 19	Introduction
January 24	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part I-V (pp. 1-33)
January 26	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part VI (pp. 33-44) Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 8-30 (Letter, Preface, Med. I and II)
January 31	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 30-51 (Med. III & IV)
February 2	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 51-70
February 7	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 1-5, 34, 46 (20 pages: On Reserve)
February 9	Spinoza, pp. I (pp. 31-51)
February 14	Spinoza, I (pp. 52-62) & II (pp. 63-79)
February 16	Spinoza, II (pp. 79-101)
February 21	Spinoza, V (pp. 201-23)

February 23	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , pp. 35-68 (On Reserve)
February 28	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> , pp. 213-25 (On Reserve) & Leibniz, <i>Discourse</i> (cont.)
March 1	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> , pp. 213-25 (cont.)
March 6	Midterm Examination
March 8	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , I. 1-2 (pp. 4-14), II. 1-8 (pp. 33-56)
March 12-16	Spring Break
March 20	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II. 9-14 (pp. 56-89)
March 22	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II. 22-23 (pp. 114-29); II. 24-27 (pp. 129-50)
March 27	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II, 29 (154-57); II, 31 (pp. 160-66); II, 32 (pp. 166-71); III, 1-3 (pp. 176-87); III, 6 [Sections 1-9] (pp. 192-96);
March 29	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , IV, 1-3 [Sections 1- 16] (pp. 224-42); IV, 4-5 (pp. 250-57); & IV, 6 (pp. 257-64).
April 3	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Introduction (pp. 7-21) & Props. 1-33 (23-35)
April 5	Berkeley, Props. 85-156 (pp. 56-87)
April 10	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections I-V (pp. 2-38)
April 12	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections VI-VIII (pp. 38-72)
April 17	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections IX-XII (pp. 72ff) Paper Topics assigned
April 19	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 1-9, 11-24 & 25-38
April 24	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 38-68
April 26	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 69-90 First Draft of the Essay Due
May 1	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 91-110
May 8	Cumulative Final Exam – 2:00PM-5PM Final Draft of the Essay Due