

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-6:00PM
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, *Meditations and Other Metaphysical Writings*. Desmond M. Clark (translator). Penguin Classics (September 1, 1999)

Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (On Reserve)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan* (On Reserve)

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 18th 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 different 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 18	Introduction
January 20	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part I-V (pp. 1-33)
January 25	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part VI (pp. 33-44) Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 8-30 (Letter, Preface, Med. I and II)
January 27	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 30-51 (Med. III & IV)
February 1	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 51-70
February 3	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 1-5, 34, 46 (20 pages: On Reserve)
February 8	Spinoza, pp. I (pp. 31-51)
February 10	Spinoza, I (pp. 52-62) & II (pp. 63-79)
February 15	Spinoza, II (pp. 79-101)

February 17	Spinoza, V (pp. 201-23)
February 22	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , pp. 35-68 (On Reserve)
February 24	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 3	Midterm Examination
March 7-11	Spring Break
March 15	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , I. 1-2 (pp. 4-14), II. 1-8 (pp. 33-56)
March 17	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II. 9-14 (pp. 56-83)
March 22	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II. 21-23 (pp. 114-29) & II. 27 (pp. 133-50)
March 24	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , III. 3, 6 (pp. 180-7, 192-203) & IV. 1-4 (pp. 224-54)
March 29	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , IV. 10-11 & 15-16 (pp. 275-92 & pp. 302-12)
March 31	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Introduction (pp. 7-21) & Props. 1-33 (23-35)
April 5	Berkeley, Props. 85-156 (pp. 56-87)
April 7	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections I-V (pp. 2-38)
April 12	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections VI-VIII (pp. 38-72)
April 14	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 21	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 38-68 First Draft of the Essay Due
April 26	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 69-90
TBA	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , 91-110 [Makeup Session]
May 2	Cumulative Final Exam – 2:00PM-5PM Final Draft of the Essay Due