

# Philosophy 25B: Early Modern Philosophy

## Summer 2012

**Instructor:** Lindsay Crawford  
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**GSI:** Zack Bruce  
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**Office Hours:** M 12-2  
**Lecture:** M-Th, 10-12, 229 Dwinelle

**Office Hours:** TBA  
**Section:** F, 12-2, 209 Dwinelle

### Course Description

This course provides a survey of some of the works of six major figures central to the development of philosophical thought in the early modern period: Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. We will study their work in the areas of metaphysics and epistemology and trace the development of particular philosophical problems and insights through each figure. Some of the questions we will be considering throughout the course are: What is the mind, and what is its relation to the body? Does God exist? What does perception reveal, and what are its limits? What can we know through reason alone? We will consider these and other questions, and how they were approached, both within their historical contexts and as they stand on their own.

### Required Texts

- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy, with Selections from the Objections and Replies*, ed. John Cottingham (Cambridge University Press, 1996). ISBN: 0-521-55818-2
- Benedict Spinoza, *The Ethics: Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect* (Hackett, 1991). ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-130-9
- John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (abridged), ed. Winkler (Hackett, 1996). ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-216-0
- George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, ed. Merrihew Adams (Hackett, 1979). ISBN: 0-915144-61-1
- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 1993) ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-229-0
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. Kemp Smith (Palgrave Macmillan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., 2007). ISBN-10: 0230013376

If you want to use different editions of these texts, let me know, and make a note of it to your GSI if you quote from the text in your papers. Keep in mind that there will very likely be differences in page numbers and (in some cases) translation choice.

It is most important that your edition of Descartes's *Meditations* is the same as the one listed above, as it includes abridged versions of the objections and replies (some of which will be assigned reading).

## Course Policies

### *Course Requirements*

3 3-page papers, 20% each

1 Final Exam, 30%

Attendance and participation (both in lecture and in section), 10%

In order to pass the course, you must complete *all* assignments.

### *Papers*

Your papers must be submitted on the due date to your GSI as well as to the plagiarism-checking site, [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com). You will receive instruction on how to sign up for the turnitin.com service when your first paper topics are distributed.

Extensions may be requested up to 72 hours in advance of the paper due date. After 72 hours, extensions are granted only for medical and family emergencies.

### *Classroom Policies*

Laptops and any other electronic devices (e.g., cell phones) that may distract others during lecture are prohibited. Small recording devices are permitted. If you have needs that require the use of a laptop, please get in touch with me at the beginning of the course.

### *Academic Misconduct*

According to the Campus Office of Student Judicial Affairs, plagiarism is the “use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source.”

Examples include:

- Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essay, term paper, or dissertation without acknowledgment.
- Use of the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment.
- Paraphrasing of another person’s characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.<sup>1</sup>

Penalties for plagiarism range from failure on an assignment (at minimum) to failure for the course, depending on the case.

Note also that it is considered cheating to resubmit an assignment you turned in for one course to another course without the instructor’s consent. The penalties for cheating are the same as those for plagiarism.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://campuslife.berkeley.edu/conduct/integrity/definition>. (See how easy it is to use a footnote?)

### *Students with Disabilities*

If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability, but do not yet have an official Letter of Accommodation for this course, please consult with Berkeley's Disabled Students Program (DSP): <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>

To receive accommodations, you must submit to me an official Letter of Accommodation from the DSP. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

### *Course Schedule*

Date	Readings	Assignments
Mon, 7/2	Introduction	
Tu, 7/3	Descartes, Meditation I	
Wed, 7/4	**Holiday**	
Thurs, 7/5	Descartes, Meditation II; - Gassendi objection + Descartes's reply (pp. 76-77)	<i>Paper 1 topics assigned</i>
Fri, 7/6	DISCUSSION SECTION	
Mon, 7/9	Descartes, Meditation III	
Tu, 7/10	Descartes, Meditation IV	
Wed, 7/11	Descartes, Meditation V; - Caterus objection (pp. 97-99)	
Thurs, 7/12	Descartes, Meditation VI; - Arnauld objection (p. 108, beginning with "But so far as I can see..." to end, p. 110) - Selections from 1643 correspondence between Descartes and Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia (to be distributed separately)	
Fri, 7/13	DISCUSSION SECTION	
Mon, 7/16	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part I (through Prop. 15)	<b>Paper 1 due</b>
Tu, 7/17	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Part II (through Prop. 13)	
Wed, 7/18	Locke, <i>ECHU</i> , I.i-ii, iv; II.i-ii	
Thurs, 7/19	Locke, <i>ECHU</i> , II.viii; - Re-read Gassendi objection (from Descartes, pp. 76-77); Locke, <i>ECHU</i> , II.xxiii	<i>Paper 2 topics assigned</i>
Fri, 7/20	DISCUSSION SECTION	
Mon, 7/23	Berkeley, First Dialogue	
Tu, 7/24	Berkeley, Second Dialogue	
Wed, 7/25	Berkeley, Third Dialogue	
Thurs, 7/26	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , I-III	
Fri, 7/27	DISCUSSION SECTION	<b>Paper 2 due</b>
Mon, 7/30	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , IV, V	<i>Paper 3 topics assigned</i>
Tu, 7/31	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , VII	

Wed, 8/1	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , VIII	
Thurs, 8/2	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , XII, <i>or</i> catch-up	<i>Final exam study questions distributed</i>
Fri, 8/3	DISCUSSION SECTION	
Mon, 8/6	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , preface to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition; Introduction, sections I-III	<b>Paper 3 due</b>
Tu, 8/7	Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Introduction, section IV – end; Kant, <i>Critique</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic, Section I (pp.65-74)	
Wed, 8/8	Optional Review Session	
Thur, 8/9		<b>Final Exam</b>

\* Readings are to be done by the corresponding date.

\*\* Schedule is subject to minor modifications.