

Philosophy 26000  
History of Philosophy II  
Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy

TH 3:00-4:20  
102 Stuart  
Winter 2009

Instructor: Michael Kremer

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Texts: The primary source readings for the first part of the course (Medieval Philosophy) will be made available through the chalk site for the course. All primary source readings for the second part of the course will be taken from two anthologies, Readings in Modern Philosophy, volumes 1 and 2, R. Ariew and E. Watkins, eds. Both are available from the Seminary Co-op Bookstore. (On the syllabus these are indicated as A&W 1 and A&W 2.) A useful basic secondary resource for the second part of the course is Garrett Thomson, Bacon to Kant, also available at the Seminary Co-op. Also useful are many articles in the on-line Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/>).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although the Ariew and Watkins anthologies are generally very good, they do contain some typographical errors. Sometimes these will impede your understanding of the text. I will try to note these mistakes in advance, but if you are puzzled by something you read and suspect a typographical mistake, do not hesitate to ask me.

Format: Lecture, with weekly discussion sections. In order to participate fully in the discussion sections and to benefit fully from the lectures, you must come to class prepared. That is, you must do the assigned reading, think seriously about it, ask yourselves questions about it, formulate possible answers to those questions, think about objections to the arguments raised, and so on, before the readings are discussed in class.

Dates and times for discussions sections will be determined during first week.

Course Objectives: This course is an introduction to some of the major thinkers and movements in the philosophy of the medieval and early modern periods. This course will aim at providing a broad overview, with special attention to developments in metaphysics, epistemology and the philosophy of mind.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is important if you are to make the most of the class. If you must miss a class, please let me know in advance if at all possible. Further, regular

attendance in a discussion section is required unless it is impossible for you due to scheduling conflicts. In the latter case, please let me know about this.

Work of the course:

**(1) Two short papers** (5-6 pages) papers on topics arising from the readings: 80%. Topics will be assigned, but there will be some choice of topics.

**(2) “Reflection paragraphs”:** 10%. Each of you will submit a one paragraph “reflection” on the readings twice in the course of the quarter. The purpose of the reflection paragraph is to provide material for further discussion in the discussion sections. You will be assigned two days on which to submit a paragraph. Your reflection paragraph can consist in a question about the readings, critical comment on them, an expression of a concern raised by them, etc. Your reflection is to be submitted through the discussion board on the chalk site for the course. Your piece should not merely ask a clarificatory question (“what does Descartes mean by x?”) but rather should raise critical issues, problems or concerns which might be discussed further by you and your classmates in or out of section. All reflections will receive brief replies from me and will be graded with whole letter grades (“A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “F”). Any reasonable reflection showing a serious grasp of the assigned reading will receive a “B”; those showing particular insight or critical acumen will receive an “A”. (Grades will not be posted on the discussion board, but replies will. You may, of course, send me questions of all sorts – for my reply – about anything in the course, as often as you like.)

**(4) Attendance and participation in discussion sections:** 10%. Attendance and participation in a discussion section is mandatory unless this is impossible because of your schedule. In the latter case please talk to me about arranging for an alternative assignment.

Policy on late work: Work is to be turned in on the assigned due date. Late work will be penalized at the rate of a half-grade per day. However, reasonable requests for extensions will be granted. Please ask for an extension before the due date.

Policy on plagiarism and intellectual honesty:

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged presentation of another’s thoughts or words as your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. For further information you should consult the book Doing Honest Work in College by C. Lipson, or the document Sources and Citations at Dartmouth College, available on-line at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/>. Informal and parenthetical citations to works covered in class are fine as long as the reference is clear.

Tentative Syllabus:

T 1/6: Introductory class

H 1/8: Classical Neo-platonism. **Required primary reading:** Plotinus, Enneads, Ennead 1, Tractate 6, “Beauty”(chalk)

**Recommended additional primary reading:** Plato, Phaedrus, selections (chalk)

**Useful secondary reading:** Stanford Encyclopedia, “Plotinus;” Thomson, pp. 1-8.

T 1/13-1/15: Augustine. **Required primary reading:** Augustine, Confessions, selections (chalk)

T 1/13: Augustine, Confessions, selections from Book One, Book Two, Book Seven. (chalk)

H 1/15: Augustine, Confessions, selections from Book Eight, Book Nine, Book Ten, Book Thirteen.(chalk)

**Recommended additional primary reading:**

T 1/13: The Bible, John 1:1-18, Philippians 2:1-18 (link on chalk)

H 1/15: The Bible, Romans 7: 7-25 (link on chalk)

**Useful secondary reading:** Stanford Encyclopedia, “St. Augustine.”

T 1/20: Anselm. **Required primary reading:** Anselm, Proslogion, Chapters I-VII, XIV-XVI, XXVI (chalk).

**Recommended additional primary reading:** Gaunilo, In Defense of the Fool; Anselm, Reply to Gaunilo, selections; Aquinas, Summa Theologica, First Part, Question 2, Article 1 (chalk).

**Useful secondary reading:** Stanford Encyclopedia, “St. Anselm.”

H 1/22-T 1/27: Aquinas. **Required primary reading:** Aquinas, Summa Theologica (chalk)

H 1/22: Aquinas, Summa Theologica, First Part, Question 1, Articles 1-2, Question 2, Articles 1-3, Question 13, Articles 2, 5. (chalk)

T 1/27: Aquinas, Summa Theologica, First Part, Question 75, Articles 1, 2, 6; Question 76, Article 1; Question 84, Articles 5, 6; Question 85, Articles 1,2; Question 86, Article 1.

**Useful secondary reading:** Stanford Encyclopedia, “St. Thomas Aquinas.”

H 1/29: Renaissance Humanism and Science. **Required primary reading:** Michel de Montaigne, Apology for Raymond Sebond, selections (chalk); Galileo, “Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina,” selections (chalk).

**Useful secondary reading:** Stanford Encyclopedia, “Galileo Galilei,” “Michel de Montaigne.”

T 2/3-H 2/12: **Required primary reading:** Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy.

T 2/3: Dedication, Synopsis, Meditations One, Two; A&W 1, pp. 22-34.

H 2/5: Meditation Three; A&W 1, pp. 34-41.

T 2/10: Meditations Four, Five; A&W 1, pp. 41-48.

H 2/12: Meditation Six; A&W 1, pp. 48-55.

**Recommended additional primary reading:**

T 2/3: Discourse on Method, Parts One, Two; A&W 1, pp. 12-19; Objections and Replies, Third Set, Objections I-IV; A&W 1, pp. 63-66; John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human

Understanding, Book II, chapter 8, sections 7-19, 23-26, A&W 2, pp. 27-29, 30-31.  
H 2/5: Objections and Replies, Third Set, Objections V-XI, Fourth Set; A&W 1, pp. 66-80.  
T 2/10: Leibniz, letter to Elizabeth; A&W 1, pp. 119-121; Objections and Replies, Sixth Set, selection (chalk).

H 2/12: Discourse on Method, Part Five; A&W 1, pp. 19-21; correspondence with Elisabeth, selections (chalk).

**Useful secondary reading:**

Thomson, pp. 9-51; Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Rene Descartes.”

T 2/17-T 2/24: **Required primary reading:** Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics

T 2/17: Discourse, sections 1-13, A&W 1, pp. 234-242.

H 2/19: Discourse, sections 14-23, A&W 1, pp. 242-249.

T 2/24: Discourse, sections 24-37, A&W 1, pp. 249-257.

**Recommended additional primary reading:**

T 2/17: Leibniz, letter to Elizabeth; A&W 1, pp. 119-121.

General: New System, A&W, pp. 279-284; Monadology, A&W 1, pp. 283-293.

**Useful secondary reading:**

Thomson, pp. 80-112; Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz.”

H 2/26-T 3/10: **Required primary reading:** Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding

H 2/26: Inquiry, Author’s Advertisement, Sections I-III, A&W 2, pp. 328-336.

T 3/3: Inquiry, Sections IV-VI, pp. 337-350.

H 3/5: Inquiry, Sections VII-IX, pp. 350-371.

T 3/10: Inquiry, Sections X-XII, pp. 371-394.

**Recommended additional primary reading:**

H 2/26: John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book I, chapter 1, sections 1-4, 8; Book I, chapter 2, sections 1-5, 22; Book II, chapter 1, sections 1-5, 23-25; A&W 2, 11-12, 13-14, 17-18, 21-22.

T 3/3: Nicolas Malebranche, The Search After Truth, Elucidation 15, A&W 1, 228-233.

H 3/5: John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book II, chapter 21, selections, A&W 2, pp. 42-50.

T 3/10: John Locke An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book II, chapter 23, sections 1-4, 9-11, 14, 37, A&W 2, pp. 53-54, 55-56, 57, 60-61; George Berkeley, Principles of Human Knowledge, Part I, sections 14-26, A&W 2, pp. 141-144; Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will be Able to Come Forward as Science, Preface (chalk).

**Useful secondary reading:**

Thomson, pp. 113-115, 144-169, 182-197, 208-241; Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. “David Hume,” “John Locke,” “George Berkeley,” “Nicolas Malebranche.”

Due dates:

Essay 1: T 2/10

Essay 2: T 3/17 (Tuesday in exam week. There is no final examination in this class.)

Reflection paragraphs:

Last name begins with	First reflection due	Second reflection due
A-B	H 1/8	T 2/10
C	T 1/13	H 2/12
D-G	H 1/15	T 2/17
H-I	T 1/20	H 2/19
J-L, Mc	H 1/22	T 2/24
M-N	T 1/27	H 2/26
O-R	H 1/29	T 3/3
S	T 2/3	H 3/5
T-Z	H 2/5	T 3/10