

## Descartes' Metaphysics Spring 2005

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Office hours: TTH 2:15 – 3:15 and by appointment

In this course, we will try to figure out what Descartes had to say about five topics in metaphysics: Substance, Mind-Body Unions, Causation, Freedom, and the Eternal Truths. In order to facilitate discussion of the specific issues I want to cover, everyone in the class is expected to be familiar with the *Meditations* (CSM II 3-62) and the first part of the *Principles of Philosophy* (CSM I 193-222). If you haven't recently read these, please do so as soon as possible.

### Required Texts

*Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, volume 1, Cambridge University Press (CSM I)  
*Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, volume 2, Cambridge University Press (CSM II)  
*Philosophical Writings of Descartes: The Correspondence*, volume 3, Cambridge University Press (CSMK)

Other readings are in the philosophy library cabinet (C) or JSTOR (J). Recent articles from *Journal of the History of Philosophy* are available at [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_philosophy/](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_philosophy/)  
My articles are available at <http://spot.colorado.edu/%7Ekaufmad/research.html>

### Requirements

- (1) At least one seminar presentation.
- (2) Seminar paper, 20-25 pages. Must demonstrate familiarity with the relevant secondary literature.
- (3) Attendance and participation in discussion.

### Tentative Schedule

NO CLASS: February 1, March 22 & 24.

### **Substance**

*Primary Reading:*

Synopsis (CSM II 9 – 11), Second Meditation (CSM II 16-23), Third Meditation (CSM II 24-36), Sixth Meditation (CSM II 50-62), Second Replies (CSM II 113-120), Fourth Replies (CSM II 159), Principles I (CSM I 210-216), Principles II (CSM I 223-240), 28 Oct. 1640 to Mersenne (CSMK 154-155), August 1641 to Hyperaspistes (CSMK 193-194), 19 January 1642 to Gibieuf (CSMK 201-204).

*Secondary Reading:*

- Peter Markie. 1994. "Descartes's Concepts of Substance." In *Reason, Will and Sensation: Studies In Descartes' Metaphysics*, J. Cottingham, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (C)
- Matt Stuart. 1999. "Descartes' Extended Substance." In *New Essays on the Rationalists*, R. Gennaro and C. Huenemann, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (C)

## **Substantial Unions**

*Primary Reading:*

Second Meditation (CSM II 16-23), Sixth Meditation (CSM II 50-62), First Replies (CSM II 85-86), Second Replies (CSM II 95-96; 113-120), Fourth Replies (CSM II 154-162), Sixth Replies (CSM II 297-300) Principles I (CSM I 193-197, 208-217), Discourse part 5 (CSM I 141), Principles II (CSM I 223-224, 279-280), Comments (CSM I 294-300), Passions #30 (CSM I 339-340), December 1641 to Regius (CSMK 200-201), January 1642 to Regius (CSMK 205-209), 21 May 1646 to Elisabeth (CSMK 217-220), 28 June 1643 to Elisabeth (CSMK 226-229), 9 February 1645 to Mesland (CSMK 241-244), July 1645 to Regius (CSMK 254-255), 1645 or 1646 to ? (CSMK 279-281), 29 July 1648 to Arnauld (CSMK 357- 358), selection from Letter to Father Dinet (C)

*Secondary Reading:*

- Chapter 1 of Marleen Rozemond. 1998. *Descartes's Dualism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (C)
- Hoffman, Paul. 1986. "The Unity of Descartes's Man." *Philosophical Review*. (J)
- Hoffman, Paul. 1999. "Cartesian Composites." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (C)
- Hoffman, Paul. 2002. "Descartes' Theory of Distinction," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. (C)

## **Causal Principles and Causation**

*Primary Reading:*

Third Meditation (CSM II 24-36), Sixth Meditation (CSM II 50-62), First Replies (CSM II 74-80), Second Replies (CSM II 96-100, 113-119), Third Replies (CSM II 130-132), Fourth Replies (CSM II 162-172), Fifth Replies (CSM II 252-257), The World (CSM I 92-98), Principles I (CSM I 198-201), Principles II (CSM I 240-244), 31 December 1640 to Mersenne (CSMK 165-166), August 1641 to Hyperaspistes (CSMK 193-194), 6 October 1645 to Elisabeth (CSMK 272-273), Burman (CSMK 339-340).

Nicholas Malebranche, selections (C)

*Secondary Reading:*

- Kenneth Clatterbaugh. 1980. "Descartes' Causal Likeness Principle" *Philosophical Review* (J)
- Eileen O'Neill. 1987. "Mind-Body Interaction and Metaphysical Consistency: A Defense of Descartes." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (C)
- Tad Schmaltz. In Preparation. "Deflating Descartes' Causal Principles." (C)

Daniel Garber. 1987. "How God causes Motion: Descartes, Divine Sustenance, and Occasionalism." *Journal of Philosophy*. (J)

Daniel Garber. 1993. "Descartes and Occasionalism." Reprinted in Garber, *Descartes Embodied*. (C)

Secada, J. 1990. "Descartes on Time and Causality." *Philosophical Review*. (J)

Geoffrey Gorham. 2004. "Cartesian Causation: Continuous, Instantaneous, Overdetermined." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. (available on-line)

## **Freedom**

### *Primary Reading:*

Fourth Meditation (CSM II 37-43), Third Replies (CSM II 133-135), Fifth Replies (CSM II 259-260), Sixth Replies (CSM II 291-292), Principles I (CSM I 194 (section 6), 203-207), Passions (CSM I 380-381), 24 May to Regius (CSMK 146-148), 21 April 1641 to Mersenne (CSMK 179-180), 2 May to Mesland (CSMK 231-236), 9 February 1645 to Mesland (CSMK 244-246), 3 November 1645 to Elisabeth (CSMK 276-278), January 1646 to Elisabeth (CSMK 281-283), Burman (CSMK 348-349).

### *Secondary Reading:*

Vere Chappell. 1994. "Descartes' Compatibilism." In *Reason, Will and Sensation: Studies In Descartes' Metaphysics*, J. Cottingham, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (C)

Dan Kaufman, 2003. "Infirmus Gradus Libertatis? Descartes on Indifference and Divine Freedom." *Religious Studies*. (available on-line)

Joseph Keim Campbell. 1999. "Descartes on Spontaneity, Indifference, and Alternatives." In *New Essays on the Rationalists*, R. Gennaro and C. Huenemann, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (C)

Scott Ragland. Forthcoming. "Descartes on Divine Providence and Human Freedom." *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (C)

## **Eternal Truths**

### *Primary Reading:*

Fifth Meditation (CSM II 44-49), Fifth Replies (CSM II 261-263), Sixth Replies (CSM II 291-294), Principles I sections 48-50 (CSM I 208-209), 15 April 1630 to Mersenne (CSMK 20-23), 6 May 1630 to Mersenne (CSMK 24-25), 27 May 1630 to Mersenne (CSMK 25-26), 2 May 1644 to Mesland (CSMK 231-236), Burman (CSMK 343-344, 347-348), 29 July 1648 to Arnauld (CSMK 358-359).

### *Secondary Reading:*

Dan Kaufman, 2002. "Descartes' Creation Doctrine and Modality" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (available on-line)

Dan Kaufman. 2005. "God's Immutability and the Necessity of Descartes' Eternal Truths." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (available on-line)

Jonathan Bennett, 1994. "Descartes' Theory of Modality" *Philosophical Review* (J)

Marleen Rozemond. Forthcoming. "Descartes' Ontology of the Eternal Truths" (C)