

PHILOSOPHY 1020  
INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY: MODERN

June 2015  
Section 100  
12:45p-2:20p  
MCOL E158

INSTRUCTOR  
Jonathan Spelman  
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**OFFICE HOURS**

My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20p-3:30p in Hellems 15, but I'm also available by appointment.

**CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

Introduces several philosophical texts and doctrines of 17th and 18th century Europe. Gives special attention to the connection between philosophical ideas and the wider historical milieu—social, political, and literary.

**MY DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to Western philosophical thought from Descartes to Kant. In particular, we will be looking at the philosophical views of Descartes, Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, Hobbes, Malebranche, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Rousseau, Reid, and Kant in hopes of both understanding and appreciating those views and developing our own philosophical abilities.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Most of the assigned readings will come from one of the two books below, which you are required to purchase (or rent). The rest of the assigned readings will be posted to D2L.

Descartes, Rene. *Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings*, translated by John Cottingham, Robert Stoothoff and Dugald Murdoch. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.  
ISBN-13: 9780521358125

*Late Modern Philosophy: Essential Readings with Commentary*, edited by Elizabeth S. Radcliffe, Richard McCarty, Fritz Allhoff, and Anand Jayprakash Vaidya. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.  
ISBN-13: 9781405146890

**EXPECTATIONS**

You're expected to prepare for each class period by carefully reading the assigned text, reflecting on its content, and writing down some of those reflections. You're also expected to engage with the material while you're in class. The hope is that doing those things will enable you to understand, appreciate, and ultimately evaluate the views of the philosophers we study.

## GRADES

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the university's uniform grading policy. "A" grades are reserved for those students who have demonstrated a mastery of the material. "B-/C+" grades are average.

	B+ <90- 87	C+ <80- 77	D+ <70- 67		
A 100 - 93	B <87- 83	C <77- 73	D <67- 63	F <60- 00	
A- <93- 90	B- <83- 80	C- <73- 70	D- <63- 60		

## GRADED ELEMENTS

### *Journal*

Throughout the term, you're expected to keep a journal in which you'll write down (at least some of) your reflections on each assigned reading. Each journal entry should be at least 150 words, clear, and thoughtful. Although you'll always receive a prompt to which you may respond, you're free to write about whatever you want, provided that it's related to the assigned reading. You're expected to complete your journal entry for each assigned reading prior to the class period during which we are discussing that reading, and you'll submit your journal entries for the entire week on Fridays. Your journal grade accounts for 20% of your final grade.

### *Participation*

Your participation grade will be based on the degree to which you appear to be making a wholehearted effort to engage with the material. The obvious ways to show me that you're doing that include paying attention during lectures, asking and answering questions about the material, and participating in class discussions. Of course, your ability to do those things depends on your attending class, so that should be a priority. If you find it difficult to part of these things, please stop by my office hours, and we'll discuss either how you might improve or whether there are alternative ways for you to show me that you're engaging with the material. Your participation grade accounts for 20% of your final grade.

### *Weekly Quizzes*

Each Friday, you'll be quizzed on the material we've covered that week. There will be four quizzes total, each of which accounts for 5% of your final grade.

### *Journal Responses*

Each Friday, after you submit your journal, I'll take a look at it and get back to you within 24 hours with a question to which you need to respond. Your response should be between 300-500 words and is due on Monday. Like your journal entries, it should be clear and thoughtful. Each journal response accounts for 5% of your final grade.

### *Final Exam*

The final exam will be cumulative. It accounts for 20% of your final grade.

<u>Graded Element</u>	<u>%</u>
Journal	20
Participation	20
Weekly Quizzes	20
Journal Responses	20
Final Exam	<u>20</u>
	100

## ASSIGNED READINGS

### Week 1 *Descartes*

- (6/01) An Introduction to Modern Philosophy
- (6/02) [SPW] Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, Parts I-III, pgs. 20-35
- (6/03) [SPW] Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 1-2, pgs. 76-86 [123-131]
- (6/04) [SPW] Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 3-4, pgs. 86-105 [131-135]
- (6/05) [SPW] Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 5-6, pgs. 105-122 [135-150]

### Week 2 *Rationalism*

- (6/08) [D2L] 12. *Letters to and from Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia*, pgs. 140-144
- (6/09) [D2L] 15. Malebranche, *The Search After Truth*, pgs. 214-228
- (6/10) [D2L] 14. Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part I, D1-P17, pgs. 158-168
- (6/11) [D2L] 18. Leibniz, *Monadology*, pgs. 263-272
- (6/12)

### Week 3 *Empiricism*

- (6/15) [LMP] 1. Locke, *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, Book II, Chapters I-VIII, Book IV, Chapter XI, pgs. 21-33, 51
- (6/16) [LMP] 2. Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, Dialogues 1-2, pgs. 52-69
- (6/17) [LMP] 3. Hume, *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, Sections 2-5, pgs. 75-90
- (6/18) [LMP] 7. Reid, *An Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense*, pgs. 133-139
- (6/19)

### Week 4 *Philosophy of Religion*

- (6/22) [SPW] Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditation 5, pgs. 105-110 [135-143]
- [LMP] 12. Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, On the Ontological Proof, pgs. 209-212
- (6/23) [LMP] 9. Clarke, *A Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God*, pgs. 189-193
- [LMP] 11. Hume, *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*, Part IX, pgs. 205-207
- (6/24) [LMP] 10. Paley, *Natural Theology*, pgs. 193-198
- [LMP] 11. Hume, *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*, Part II, V, pgs. 200-205
- (6/25) [D2L] Hume's *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*, Part XI, pgs. 67-76
- [D2L] 17. Leibniz, *The Theodicy: Abridgement of the Argument*, pgs. 257-262
- (6/26) [D2L] 13. Pascal, *Pensées*, pgs. 145-150

### Week 5 *Political Philosophy*

- (6/29) [D2L] 20. Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, Chapter XIII, Part II, pgs. 283-288, 301-306
- (6/30) [LMP] 13. Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, pgs. 221-233
- (7/01) [LMP] 15. Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Book I, pgs. 240-247
- (7/02) **Final Exam**

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### *Academic Honesty*

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu) or 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion. Other information on the Honor Code can be found at the website above.

### *Classroom Behavior Policy*

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

[http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at the websites above.

### *Disability and Medical Condition Policy*

<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. (For exam accommodations, provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam.) Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or have other questions, see the website above.

### *Discrimination and Harassment Policy*

<http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty who believes he or she has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at the website above.

### *Religious Observances Policy*

[http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please let me know prior to the third week of classes if one of your religious obligations prohibits you from either attending class on a particular day or completing a particular assignment. See full details at the website above.