PHIL 245 Early Modern Philosophy
TR (8:55AM-10:05 PM)
Classroom: Zinzendorf 103
Instructor: Dr. Bernie Cantens
Office: Comenius Hall 107
Phone/E-Mail: (610) 861-1589/bcantens@moravian.edu
Web Page: http://berniephilosophy.com/
Office Hours: W 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Text

The Rationalist: Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. New York: Anchor Books, 1974.
ISBN-0-385-09540-6

Empiricists: Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. New York: Anchor Books, 1974.
ISBN-0-385-09622-4

Kant, Immanuel. *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall
1997.   ISBN 0-02-319330-1

* Make sure you bring the text to every class!

Course Description

A study of the original works of the preeminent philosophers of the early modern era, including
Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant. (M3) *Fall, Alternate Year,
Cantens.*

Course Goals

The objectives of this course are the following: 1) to study the origin and nature of early modern
philosophy (1600-1800); 2) to introduce students to the major epistemological and metaphysical
themes of the period; 3) to study the writings of the most prominent philosophers of the period
(e.g., Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant); 4) to familiarize students
with the interconnections and interdependence of philosophical ideas throughout the history of
philosophy (e.g., ancient, medieval, modern, and post-modern); 5) to introduce students to the
methods and nature of philosophical inquiry; 6) to introduce students to complex and difficult
arguments that will help them develop critical reading skills; 7) to familiarize students how to
express clearly difficult and complex ideas that will help them develop critical writing skills.

Learning Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected of the students who complete this course: 1) to think and
write intelligibly about ultimate questions; 2) to recognize the relevance and importance of
ultimate questions for the prosperity of individuals and society; 3) to critically evaluate their own
and others' beliefs about ultimate questions; 4) to write clearly about prominent philosophical

themes in the early modern period; 5) to write clearly and intelligibly about metaphysical and epistemological concepts, doctrines, and theories of the early modern period; 6) to identify and express the views of some of the most prominent philosophers of early modern period; 7) to write clearly and develop original arguments on complex metaphysical and epistemological issues.

Grading and Assignments
2 Short Papers (50 %)
Students will complete two philosophical writing assignments on a topic *directly* related to this course and the assigned readings. The writing assignment is a *top-down, thesis-governed paper* approximately 3-5 pages long, double-spaced and 12-Times New Roman font. A thesis-governed paper is a more formal academic style paper – "the prototypical structure of academic prose. Such writing begins with the presentation of a problem to be addressed; near the end of the introduction, after the writer has presented the problem, the writer states his or her thesis, often accompanied by a purpose statement or a blueprint statement that gives the reader an overview of the whole essay. The body of the paper then supports the thesis with appropriate arguments and evidence" (John C. Bean, *Engaging* Ideas, 87). The students will be graded according to four criteria: (1) whether the introduction has a clear and explicit thesis and organized developing statements; (2) whether the paper is well organized and demonstrates a logical flow of ideas (in accordance with the introduction); (3) whether there are well constructed and developed arguments and/or critical explanations of philosophical problems and solutions; and (4) whether the writing skills, such as word use, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are correct.

In an effort to provide opportunities for the writing process to work the papers will be completed in 4 parts: (1) Thesis, (2) Introduction and Outline, (3) 1st Draft, and (4) Final Paper. Each part will be checked by the professor.

Paper Assignments Due Dates
September 20, 2011
November 17, 2011

The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Exams (50 %)
There will be two exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be composed of essays and short answers.

Exam 1: October 6, 2011
Exam 2: December 14, 2011 (Wednesday at 8:30 AM)

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Extra Credit

Students can earn 3 extra points by attending 3 Philosophy Club meetings or other Philosophy department related event.

Learning Methods
Multimedia   This course will combine traditional classroom lecturing with multimedia presentations. Some lectures will be supplemented with power point presentations and internet information. All course materials, such as syllabus, review questions, term paper information, etc., are posted on my website: http://berniephilosophy.com . This will give the students direct access to most of the materials for this class at their convenience.

Class Dynamic Class participation is expected of all students enrolled in this course. Questions and class discussions are encouraged as an effective vehicle to motivate students' interest in the subject matter. *If there are few questions and little discussion taking place in the classroom, the professor reserves the right to choose individual students to answer questions or give their view and the arguments on a particular issue.* Therefore, careful daily reading of the text and handouts is essential for success in this course.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is mandatory. Students **must bring their text** to every class! Students will lose 1 point for every unexcused absence up to a possible 5 points. If a student has 5 unexcused absences he or she must meet with the professor to continue participating in the class. Students can make up lost points in unexcused absences by actively participating in class discussions or attending out-of-class philosophy lectures and events. Unexcused absences include only the following: (1) sickness with a doctors' note, (2) death in the family, or (3) some other extraordinary event.

Academic Dishonesty Policy
(See Student Handbook pp. 32 – 38.)

Disabilities Policy
Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Student Behavior
(See Student Handbook pp. 38 – 40.)

Course Requirements
Reading of assignments before class is essential to succeed in this course. Students are expected to be ready for class, meaning they should read the assigned chapters before the professor lectures on them in class. Class participation, note taking, and discussion are highly encouraged. The study of philosophy does not only consist of memorization. Students must also read analytically and reflect critically on the texts and reading assignments. Do not be disappointed if you do not understand a philosophical reading assignment on your first try. It is often necessary to read them several time to obtain a genuine understanding.

A=100-94; A- =93-90; B+=89-87; B=86-84; B- = 83-80; C+=79-77; C = 76-70; D=69-60; F=<59

PROGRAM AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1	DESCARTES (1596-1650)
August 30	Introduction: The Early Modern Period
September 1	*Meditations on First Philosophy,* Meditations I and II
WEEK 2	
Sept. 6	*Meditations on First Philosophy,* III and IV
Sept. 8	*Meditations on First Philosophy,* V and VI
WEEK 3	**SPINOZA (1632-1677)**
Sept. 13	*The Ethics,* Pt. I and Appendix, Concerning God, pp. 179-215.
Sept. 15	*The Ethics,* Pt. V, The Power of the Understanding or of Human Freedom, pp. 379-408.
WEEK 4	**LEIBNIZ (1646-1716)**
Sept. 20	*Discourse on Metaphysics*, I-XV, pp. 409-427. **1st PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE**
Sept. 22	*Discourse on Metaphysics*, XVI-XXXVII, pp. 427-453
WEEK 5	
Sept. 27	*Monadology*, (1)-(58), pp. 456-464
Sept. 29	*Monadology,* (59)- (90), pp. 464-471
WEEK 6	

Oct. 4	Review
Oct. 6	**MIDTERM**
WEEK 7	**LOCKE (1632-1704)**
Oct. 11	**Recess**
Oct. 13	TBA
WEEK 8	
Oct. 18	*Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Introduction, and Book I, Ch. I-VIII, pp. 7-30.
Oct. 20	*Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. I, Ch. IX-XXVI, pp. 31-62.
WEEK 9	
Oct. 25	*Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk.1, Ch. XXVII, pp. 62-75.
Oct. 27	*Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. IV, Ch. I-XI (Abridged), pp. 75-113.
WEEK 10	**BERKELEY (1685-1753)**
Nov. 1	*A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge,* (1)-(45), pp. 135-168.
Nov. 3	*A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge,* (46)-(85), pp. 168-185.
WEEK 11	**HUME (1711-1776)**
Nov. 8	*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Sections I-VI, pp. 307-348.
Nov. 10	*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Sections VII, pp. 349-364.
WEEK 12	

Nov. 15	*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion,* pp. 431-471.
Nov. 17	*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, pp. 471-517. **2ND PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE**
WEEK 13	**KANT (1724-1804)**
Nov. 22	*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics,* Introduction, and Preambles … pp. 3-27.
Nov. 24	**Thanksgiving**
WEEK 14	
Nov. 29	*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics,* First Part of the Main Transcendental Problem, pp. 28-41.
Dec. 1	*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics,* Second Part of the Main Transcendental Problem, pp. 42-74.
WEEK 15	
Dec. 6	*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics,* Second Part of the Main Transcendental Problem, pp. 42-74.
Dec. 8	Review
Dec. 14	**FINAL EXAM**: December 14, 2011, Wednesday, 8:30 AM

PLEASE, as a courtesy to the other students in the class, turn off all phones upon entering class!