

PHILOSOPHY FROM DESCARTES TO KANT

CASEY O'CALLAGHAN
PHIL 272
Fall 2007
M, W, (F) 9:30a–10:50a
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The era of the modern scientific revolution was spurred by the publication of Copernicus's 1543 treatise, *De Revolutionibus*, which argued that the sun, not the earth, was the center of planetary motions. This revolution in scientific thought and process was in full swing by the time of Galileo's 1633 condemnation for empirical work supporting Copernican cosmology. An era of rapid scientific progress and its societal repercussions was fueled by the birth of modern philosophy, which coalesced around Descartes's work of the early mid-17th century. This course is a study of Descartes and Leibniz, who have come to be known as Continental Rationalists; Locke, Berkeley, and Hume—British Empiricists; and Kant. We'll focus on these modern philosophers' work on knowledge, perception, and metaphysics. We will pay particular attention to their views on the nature of the mind, concepts, primary and secondary qualities, causation, and the self.

Texts

The following are the texts I've ordered for the course. I recommend buying them. They're good editions and should serve you for a long time. Excellent alternative editions are available, however, and any decent translation should be fine. Check with me if you are unsure about a given edition.

1. Descartes, *Meditations*, Cottingham et al., Cambridge, 1996.
2. Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Woolhouse, Penguin, 2004.
3. Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and Other Essays*, Ariew and Garber, Hackett.
4. Berkeley, *Principles of Philosophy and Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, Woolhouse, Penguin, 1988.
5. Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Hackett, 1993.
6. Kant, *Prolegomena to any future metaphysics*, Hatfield, Cambridge, 2004.
7. Materials marked '[. . .]' are supplementary and will be posted to Lyceum: lyceum.bates.edu. You are encouraged, but not required, to read these selections.

Coursework

1. Attendance, preparation, and participation are essential to your success in this class. Collectively, they are worth **1/5** of your grade.
2. Two short essays, due **M 10-15, W 11-28: 1/5 each**
3. Midterm quiz (**M 10-29**) and Final (**W 12-12, 8:00a**): **1/5 each**

Schedule

W 5 SEP	Introduction
M 10	Descartes , <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Dedicatory letter, Preface, Synopsis, and Meditation I; [<i>The Matrix</i> , Malcolm “Dreaming and Skepticism”]
W 12	Meditation II; [Sartre, selection from <i>Nausea</i>]
M 17	Meditations III, IV
W 19	Meditations V, VI; [Russell, “Descartes”]
M 24	Leibniz , <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , §§1–22; [Russell, “Leibniz”]
W 26	<i>Discourse</i> , §§23–37; [Broad, “Leibniz’s <i>Predicate-in-Notion Principle</i> ...”]
M 1 OCT	Leibniz, continued
W 3	Leibniz, continued
M 8	Locke , <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Book I, Chapters i, ii (i.e., I.i–ii), II.i (§§1–9, 23–5), ii, iii
W 10	<i>Essay</i> , II.viii, II.ix, II.xii; [Mackie, <i>Problems from Locke</i> , ch. 1]
M 15*	Locke, continued— Essay #1 due
W 17	<i>Fall recess</i>
M 22	<i>Essay</i> , II.xxi (§§1–29, 71–3), II.xxiii; [Mackie, <i>PL</i> , ch. 3]
W 24	<i>Essay</i> , II.xxvii, IV.x; [Lewis, “Survival and Identity”]
M 29*	Midterm quiz
W 31	Berkeley , <i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i> , §§1–33; [<i>Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i> , First Dialogue]
M 5 Nov	Hume , <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , §§I, II, III
W 7	<i>Enquiry</i> , §§IV; [Salmon, “An Encounter with David Hume”]
M 12	<i>Enquiry</i> , §V; [Lewis, “Causation”]
W 14	<i>Enquiry</i> , §VI–VIII
M 19	<i>Thanksgiving recess</i>
W 21	<i>Thanksgiving recess</i>
M 26	Kant , <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</i> , Preface, §§1–13; [Hatfield, “Introduction”]
W 28*	<i>Prolegomena</i> , §§14–39— Essay #2 due
M 3 DEC	<i>Prolegomena</i> , §§40–60, Scholium
W 5	Conclusion
W 12*	Final exam , 8:00a