

PHIL 3010, *Classics of Modern Western Philosophy*, TTH 2:00-3:15, MLC 207

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This course is designed to provide an introduction to modern philosophy through a careful reading of selections from classic philosophical texts. Although no previous acquaintance with modern philosophy is expected, PHIL 1000 or PHIL 2200 or PHIL 2400 or the honors equivalent is required as a prerequisite.

The requirements for the course are: regular class attendance, reading of all assigned material, two essays on assigned topics (3-5 double-spaced typewritten pages, 30%) and a final examination (40%). Class participation and improvement will be used to resolve cases of borderline grades. Students missing more than four classes for any reason will be withdrawn at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will be counted as absence from class. All decisions of the instructor in this regard will be final and binding.

The honor code is in effect in this class and will be enforced. This syllabus indicates a plan for the course; some deviations may be necessary.

Readings:

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

Rousseau, *The Reveries of a Solitary Walker*

Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*

Syllabus

You should read all assignments *prior* to class on the date assigned.

August

18 Introduction

20 Descartes, *Meditations* 1 and 2

25 Descartes, *Meditation* 3

27 Descartes, *Meditation* 3 (cont.)

1 Descartes, *Meditation* 4

3 Descartes, *Meditation* 5

8 Descartes, *Meditation* 6

10 Descartes, *Meditation* 6 and FIRST ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED

- 15 Hume, ECHU Sections 1-3
- 17 Hume, ECHU Sections 4-6

- 22 Hume, ECHU Sections 7 and FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE
- 24 Hume, ECHU Sections 8-9

- 29 Hume, ECHU, Section 10

October

- 1 Hume, ECHU, Sections 11-12

- 6 Hume, DCNR, Pamphilus to Hermippus and Parts 1-3
- 8 Hume, DCNR, Parts 4-6

- 13 Hume, DCNR, Parts 7-10
- 15 Hume, DCNR, Parts 11-12 and SECOND ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED

- 20 Rousseau, First and Second Walk
- 22 Rousseau, Third and Fourth Walk

- 27 Rousseau, Fifth and Sixth Walk and SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE
- 29 Rousseau, Seventh and Eighth Walk

November

- 3 Rousseau, Ninth and Tenth Walk
- 5 Kant, "An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?"

- 10 Kant, "On the Proverb: That It May be True in Theory, But Is of No Practical Use"
- 12 Discussion

- 17 Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"
- 19 Discussion

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

December

- 1 Lecture: On the Significance of Modern Philosophy
- 3 Discussion and Conclusion