

PHIL 3010. 3 hours.

Course Title: Classics of Modern Western Philosophy

Course Description: Philosophers from the "modern period" of philosophy focusing on those writing in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, and Kant.

Oasis Title: Modern Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1000 or PHIL 2200 or PHIL 2400 or permission of department

Fall Semester, 2008

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You are responsible for knowing everything contained in this Syllabus/Description.

Texts: Required readings are all available on the Course Website on WebCT.

Goals & Methods of the Course: The goal of the course is to give you a overview of modern western philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries by covering these major philosophical figures: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Leibniz, and Kant. The emphasis will be on how these philosophers sought to deal with issues that arose from the overthrow of the Aristotelian-Scholastic worldview by the new or modern scientific way of thinking and dealing with the world while still maintaining, at least implicitly, a nostalgia for the pre-modern way of looking at the world. These issues still bedevil contemporary philosophers. We will consider only epistemological and metaphysical issues.

Grading:

- All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work: www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/procedures.html
- There will be seven (7) one page papers, counting 70% of your course grade.
 - Potential topics for these papers will be posted on WebCT before we take up the philosopher to which the topics pertain. **You should make sure that your reading of the text, my lectures, and class discussion enable you to write a paper on ANY of the topics. Ask questions if you do not understand how you would go about responding to the topics. I will select a topic for you to write on about every two weeks. I will only select topics that have been discussed in class.**
 - I will announce the topic and the due-date in class and post the topic, due date, and specific instructions on the course website homepage under the Assignment icon. You will always have one week to complete the assignment.
 - You may discuss assigned paper topics with your classmates, but what you write **must be in your own words**. To do otherwise is to be in violation of the Academic Honesty Policy.
 - No handwritten papers will be accepted.
 - Papers must be double-spaced and be limited to no more than one and one half (1½) pages using standard margins and 12 point type. I stop reading when the paper get too long.
 - Your name should occur only in light pencil on the **back** of your paper. (I don't want to know whose paper I am grading until I've assigned a grade..)
 - Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day they are do; **Late papers will not be accepted without a bonafide excuse.**
 - An optional take-home final will consist in your writing two additional papers.
 - Three topics from the list of topics that have not been previously assigned will be available from which you must choose two: **you cannot choose to do just one.**
 - The grades on these papers will **replace** the two lowest paper grades that you previously received **even if the new grades are lower than the previously received grades.**
 - **You must complete at least seven (7) papers to pass the course.**
 - **If you fail to turn in more than two of the assigned papers, you will fail the course**, since there is no way that you can complete all seven papers.

- The remaining 30% of your course grade will be based on quizzes on the readings.
 - There will be frequent quizzes.
 - Quizzes are intended to demonstrate that you have done the reading assignment and have a basic understanding of the issues involved in the reading.
 - The lowest grade for a quiz that you take will be 50%. But a missed quiz will receive a grade of 0%.
 - There are no makeups for quizzes.
 - The lowest three quiz grades will be dropped when determining your quiz grade.
- **Keep copies of all graded material returned to you in case there is a question about whether your grades have been correctly recorded.**
- Your grades are available on the course website under the My Grades icon on the homepage.
- The university now uses a plus-minus system for recording grades. You should check the following website for answers to some frequently asked questions about this system: <http://www.bulletin.uga.edu/PlusMinusGradingFAQ.html#Q9>.
- I use numbers from 0 to 100 in grading. To see how they relate to plus and minus letter grades, click on the +/- Grades icon on the Course Website Homepage. **I do not do any rounding, either up or down, in calculating your grade your grade for the course.**

The course web site on WebCT:

- **Syllabus/Description**, which is this document.
- **Syllabus/Calendar**: contains
 - Assignments. Readings are listed on the day they are to be completed.
 - The Syllabus/Calendar is subject to change. **You are responsible for checking the website regularly to keep up to date on the assignments.**
 - You have to click on the date number to see the specifics of each reading, like page numbers.
 - When there is a change in the Syllabus/Calendar that you have not seen, a calendar-icon appears on the WebCT welcome page where this course is listed, and the Syllabus/Calendar icon also appears with green lines radiating around it.
- **Readings**: All the readings for the course are available under the Readings icon.
- **Misc Material**: Miscellaneous material will be placed here.
- **Paper Topics**: A list of paper topics from which I will select assignments.
- **Assignment**: The currently assigned paper topic, some specific instructions, and the due date.
- **Discussions** is a bulletin board restricted to members of the class. It is a place where you can pose questions or comments and respond to other students' questions and comments.
 - I post information of general interest here.
 - I check the bulletin board regularly and reply when appropriate.
 - For personal matters, use intra-class mail, or, better, my regular e-mail given above.
 - If there is a posting that you have not read, a posting-icon appears on the WebCT welcome page and the Discussions icon appears with green radiating lines.
- **Intra-class Mail**: This is an email-system restricted to members of the class and the instructor.
 - Use this or my regular e-mail, listed above, to contact me concerning something that is not of general interest to the class.
 - I move questions of general interest to Discussions.
 - I use this feature if I have to inform you about important changes in the Calendar and about other important matters concerning the course.
 - **You are responsible for knowing the contents of any e-mail I send to you using this system.**
 - **Forward your Intra-class mail to an e-mail box that you frequent very often.** You can do this by clicking on Message Settings.
 - If you have unread mail, a mail-icon appears on the WebCT welcome page where this course is listed and the Intra-class Mail icon on the home page also appears with radiating green lines.
 - If you use this feature to pose general questions or comments about the course material, I will move the questions and comments to the bulletin board.
- **Links**: Links to a philosophical dictionary and a philosophical encyclopedia are to be found here. If you find any interesting relevant links, let me know and I'll add them.
- **Academic Honesty**: All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic work in this class. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. More information is under the Academic Honesty Policy icon on the Homepage of the Course Website.
- **My Grades** is where you can see your grades. Only you can see your grades.
- **+/- Grading** explains how my grading system connects with the +/- grading system used by the university.
- **Chat Room** is a real-time discussion area; you can type to each other in real time. To use this --feature, chatters have to be logged onto the website at the same time.

Phil3010 Modern Philosophy
Woller / Spring 2009
Syllabus/Calendar

This calendar is subject to periodic revision

:9/1/2009,Introduction,,,,,Course Mechanics.

:12/1/2009,Pre-modern World - Substance,,,,,Have read:
1. Syllabus-Description on the WebCT course website Home Page.
2. The first 2 pages of Aristotle, "Categories." All readings are on the course website under the Readings icon.

:14/1/2009,Modern World,,,,,Have read Burt, Modern vs Pre-modern.

:16/1/2009,A priori,,,,,No reading for today.

:19/1/2009,MLK Day,,,,,No class.

:21/1/2009,Descartes,,,,,Descartes, Meditations 1.

:23/1/2009,Descartes,,,,,Have read Descartes' "Meditation 2."

:26/1/2009,Descartes,,,,,Have read Descartes' "Meditation 3."

:28/1/2009,Descartes,,,,,Have read Descartes' "Meditation 4" and "Meditation 5."

:30/1/2009,Descartes,,,,,Have read Descartes' "Meditation 6."

:2/2/2009,Locke-Innate Ideas,,,,,Have read Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Chapters I & II.
The next reading, will be Leibniz's New Essays Concerning Human Understanding, Chap 1, which is Leibniz's commentary of Locke's Chapter 2 of Book I. In this dialogue the character Philaletes merely paraphrases Locke, with the boldfaced section numbers indicating the section being paraphrased. The character Theophilus speaks Leibniz's criticisms of Locke. You might want to read this in tandem with Locke, looking at Theophilus' criticisms immediately after reading the relevant section in Locke. I plan to spend today and next class discussing Locke's arguments

:4/2/2009,Leibniz-Innate Ideas,,,,,Have read Leibniz's New Essays Concerning Human Understanding, Chap 1.

:6/2/2009,Innate Ideas Pinker,,,,,Have read the excerpt from Stephen Pinker's The Language Instinct, which argues for an innate language instinct.

:9/2/2009,Locke - Simple Ideas,,,,,Have read the selections from Locke's Essay, Book II, Chaps 1 through 8.

:11/2/2009,Locke - Complex Ideas,,,,,Have read the selections from Locke's Essay, Book II, Chaps 12-14, 17-18, 22.

:13/2/2009,Locke - Complex Ideas,,,,, Have read the selections from Locke's Essay, Book II, Chap 23.

:16/2/2009,Locke Knowledge,,,,,Have read Book IV, Chaps 1-4, & 9-11 in Locke's Essay.

:18/2/2009,Locke Personal Identity,,,,,Have read Book II, Chap 27.

:20/2/2009,

:23/2/2009,Slack,,,,,

:25/2/2009,Locke Abstract Ideas,,,,,Have read Chap. 3 of Book III of Locke's Essay.

:27/2/2009,Berkeley Abstract Ideas,,,,,Have read."Introduction" from Berkeley's Principles of Human Knowledge.

:2/3/2009,Berkeley Idealism,,,,,Have read Berkeley Dialogue I from his Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, in Opposition to Skeptics and Atheists. Read carefully through the arguments about felt temperature, and then more quickly until the primary qualities are discussed. Read carefully from there to the end of "Dialogue I."

:4/3/2009,Berkeley Idealism,,,,,Have read Berkeley Dialogue II.

:6/3/2009,Berkeley Idealism,,,,,Have read Berkeley's Dialogue III

:9/3/2009,Spring Break,,,,,No classes.

:11/3/2009,Spring Break,,,,,No classes.

:13/3/2009,Spring Break,,,,,No classes.

:16/3/2009,Hume Skepticism,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Sections 1-4.

:18/3/2009,Hume Skepticism OK,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry, Sections 5 & 6..

:20/3/2009,Hume Causality,,,,,Have read: Hume's Enquiry, Sections 7.

:23/3/2009,Hume Free will,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry Section 8.

:24/3/2009,Withdrawal Deadline,,,,,Today is the last day to withdraw from the course with a WP; after today only a WF can be given. Remember, however, that you are only allowed 4 withdrawal in your college career; after 4 a withdrawal is always a WF no matter when the withdrawal is initiated. A WF functions in your GPA as an F.

:25/3/2009,Locke Free Will,,,,,Have read: Locke's Essay, Book II, Chap. 21, the following sections: 7-8, 13-16, 21-26, 29-31, 41-42, 46-49, 56, 67,69, 71-72.

:27/3/2009,Hume Miracles,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry, Sections 9 & 10

:30/3/2009,Hume Religion,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry, Section 11.

:1/4/2009,Hume Summary,,,,,Have read Hume's Enquiry, Section 12.

:3/4/2009,Slack,,,,,

:6/4/2009,Leibniz Metaphysics,,,,,Have read Leibniz's Discourse on Metaphysics. Sections 4, 11, and 17 to the end are optional.

:8/4/2009,Leibniz Metaphysics,,,,,Have read Leibniz's Monadology.

:10/4/2009,Leibniz/Clarke God's Sensorium.....Have read Leibniz I.3, Clarke I.3, Leibniz II.3-5, Clarke II.3-5, Leibniz III.10-12, Clarke III.10-12, Leibniz IV.24-31, 34-37, Clarke IV. 24-31, 34-37.

:13/4/2009,Leibniz/Clarke,,,,,Have read Leibniz I.4, Clarke I.4, Leibniz II.6-12, Clarke II.6-12, Leibniz III.13-17, Clarke III.13-17, Leibniz IV.32-33, 38-46.

:15/4/2009,Leibniz/Clarke,,,,,Have read Leibniz I.1-2; Clarke I.1-2; Leibniz II.1-2; Clarke II.1-2; Leibniz III.1-9; Clarke III.1-19; Leibniz IV.1-23, P.S.; Clarke IV.1-42, N.B.

:17/4/2009,Summary,,,,,

:20/4/2009,Kant,,,,,Have read Kant's Prolegomena, "Introduction," "Preamble," & "First Part."

:22/4/2009,Kant,,,,,Have read Kant's Prolegomena, "Second Part."

:24/4/2009,Kant,,,,,Have read Kant's Prolegomena, "Third Part."

:27/4/2009,Kant,,,,,Friday schedule in effect. Have read Kant's Prolegomena, "Conclusion" & Solution."

:29/4/2009,Slack,,,,,

:30/4/2009,Slack,,,,,

:6/5/2009,Optional Exam Papers,,,,, Due by 5pm. Only e-mail attachments will be accepted. And they MUST be of one of the following formats or in plain text within the body of the e-mail: pdf, .doc., docx, and .wpd format.