

PHIL ###: Early Modern Philosophy
Semester/Year

Instructor: Dr. Micah Bailey
Email: schoolemail@xyz.com
Office: schooloffice#
Office Hours: Office hour times Or by Skype
Meeting times: Time1 – time2 in Building#

Required Texts:

Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources 2nd ed. (MP) – by Ariew and Watkins
Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy 3rd ed. (BK) – By Garrett Thomson

Course Description:

This course provides a survey of the (western) philosophical thought of key figures in the early modern period (17th & 18th centuries). The beginning of modernity coincides with the scientific revolution and the waning influence of the church and scholasticism. The rise of mechanical physics recast metaphysical and epistemological questions (e.g. the nature of the human mind, freewill, immortality, the limitations of human knowledge, etc.). This course surveys how different philosophers responded to these questions and how they responded to each other. We will begin with the rationalists, which includes Descartes (the father of modern philosophy), Spinoza, and Leibniz. The rationalists are marked, in part, by having an optimistic picture of human reasoning and intellection. Then we will turn to the empiricists, which includes Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. Empiricism, we will see, eventually leads to skepticism. We end the course with Kant, who, in critiquing and synthesizing both traditions, hopes to avoid both skepticism and the pretension of speculative thought outside the bounds of experience.

Course Objectives:

This course has the following primary objectives. First, you will understand the respective views of modern philosophers by studying primary texts. Second, you will understand how they influence and respond to one another. Third, you will enhance your analytical skills of logical argumentation by examining the various arguments that are offered by modern philosophers.

Course Requirements:

Mid-term:	100pts.
Final:	100pts.
Homework:	100pts.
Term paper:	100pts.

Exams: There will be two exams for this course, one exam covering the rationalists and the other covering the empiricists and Kant. Each exam is worth 100 points. I will provide several possible questions in advance of the exam. A subset of those questions will appear on the exam for you to answer, and I will ask you to select a number of them to answer.

Homework: Throughout the course, I will assign reading questions as homework. I plan for there to be 8 homework assignments total. The reading questions are designed to focus your reading and help prepare you for the exam. I will accept late assignments only if they are turned within a week they are due. Late assignments will receive a 50% penalty. I will determine your homework score by determining the percentage of prompts you correctly answered and multiplying that into 100pts.

Paper: You are required to write a 2100 to 3000-word term paper for this class. The paper must address a major argument offered by one of the philosophers we study. The topic needs to be approved by me by 4/13. The paper is due the last day of classes before finals week.

Formative Assessment: Your term paper will also count towards your formative assessment. While it is possible to pass the class and perform poorly on the paper, if you perform poorly on the paper, you will be asked to consider retaking the course so that you acquire the proper skills.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. After two unexcused absences, your grade will be docked five points per absence. Do not expect to do well in this class if you do not attend regularly. Rather than utilizing a textbook that analyzes the material for us, we will read primary texts and analyze them ourselves. This includes my analysis as offered in lectures and class discussion. As a result, the lecture material constitutes much of what you will be examined over.

The University's attendance policy appears on page 20 of the Undergraduate Catalog 2015. It states that [s]tudents are expected to attend all lectures, seminars, laboratories, and fieldwork for each registered class, and to complete all work assigned by the instructor for the class." It also states that students have the right to make up missed course requirements "when a student is absent because of participation in approved university activities, university programs (that the student is required to attend), or when absence has been verified by the Office of Student Experience and Engagement [(660-543-4114, ADM 214)]. A student must contact his/her instructor on the first day the student returns to class... When absent due to extenuating circumstances such as documented medical issues, a death in the family, or military order, a student may ask the Office of Student Experience and Engagement to verify the absence. If the absence is verified, the student will be provided a written electronic notice which s/he may distribute to faculty. It is the responsibility of the student to make the request within a reasonable time frame, distribute the documentation to faculty within two days of receiving it, and to make arrangements with faculty to make up all missed work." An absence will be excused if the above conditions are met, including the requirement that the electronic documentation is distributed to me within a reasonable time frame. For further details, please consult the Undergraduate Catalog (<https://www.ucmo.edu/academics/catalogs/documents/2015UGCatalog.pdf>).

Note that office hours and appointments are not an opportunity for unexcused absentees to gain lecture notes. Rather, their purpose, in general, is for attendees to clarify concepts, etc.

Blackboard:

There is a Blackboard site for this class. On it, I will make announcements, provide handouts, enter grades, etc. throughout the semester. Note that Blackboard emails, including announcements, are only sent to your officially registered email address. You are responsible for announcements and any changes of the course communicated through Blackboard.

Grading Scale:

<http://www.ucmo.edu/registrar/grades/> defines the grading scale as such:

- A – work of marked excellence
- B – work of superior quality
- C – work of average quality
- D – work of inferior quality
- F – failure to do work of passing quality

Accordingly, letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

>89 – 100:	A
>79 – 89:	B
>69 – 79:	C
>59 – 69 :	D
0 – 59:	F

Note that, since UCMO does not use +/- scale, I roundup in determining the grades. But also note that the amount I am willing to roundup is already accounted for.

TENATIVE Course Schedule:

Date	Content	Reading	Other
Week 1			
1/11	Introduction to Course		
1/13	Bacon, <i>New Organon</i> ; Galileo, <i>The Assayer</i>	MP: 16-24 BK: 116-25	
1/15	Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> 1, 2 and 5	MP: 1-3 & 25-34 BK: 9-13	Assign HW 1
Week 2			
1/18	MLK jr. Day: Classes Cancelled		
1/20	Descartes, <i>Mediations I</i>	MP: 35-43 BK: Ch. 1	
1/22	Descartes, <i>Mediations II</i>	MP: 43-47 BK: Ch. 1	
Week 3			
1/25	Descartes, <i>Mediations III & IV</i>	MP: 47-54 & 58 – 61 BK: Ch. 2	HW 1 Due Assign HW 2

1/27	Descartes, <i>Mediations V</i>	MP: 54-8 BK: Ch. 3	
1/29	Descartes, <i>Mediations VI</i>	MP: 61-8 BK: Ch. 3	HW 2 Due Assign HW 3
Week 4			
2/1	Spinoza, <i>Ethics I</i>	MP: 111-13 & 144-64 BK: 52-53 & Ch. 4	
2/3	Spinoza, <i>Ethics II</i>	MP 164-75 BK: Ch. 5	
2/5	Spinoza, <i>Ethics V</i>	MP: 175-95 BK: Ch. 6	HW 3 Due Assign HW 4
Week 5			
2/8	Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i> Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>	MP: 197-9, 265-8, & 224-42 BK: 80-2, Ch. 7 & 8	
2/10	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature</i>	MP: 242-7 & 269-74 BK: 101-6	
2/12	Leibniz, <i>A New System...</i> Con'd	(See previous two readings)	
Week 6			
2/15	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i>	MP: 275-83	HW 4 Due
2/17	Newton, <i>Principia</i> Leibniz, From the Letters to Clark	MP: 284-303 BK: 106-8	
2/19	Newton, <i>Principia</i> Leibniz, From the Letters to Clark	MP: 284-303 BK: 109-12	Assign HW 5
Week 7			
2/23	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	MP: 305-7 & 316-42 BK: Ch. 13	
2/25	Review		
2/27	Mid-Term		
Week 8			
2/29	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	Cont'd	
3/2	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	MP: 348-367 BK: Ch. 14	
3/4	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	Cont'd	
Week 9			
3/7	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	MP: 367-377 BK: Ch. 15	
3/9	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning...</i>	MP: 386-415	HW 5 Due Assign HW 6
3/11	Berkeley, <i>Principles...</i>	MP: 435-7 & 436-53 BK: 200-1 & Ch. 17	
Week 10			
3/14	Berkeley, <i>Principles...</i>	Cont'd	
3/16	Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues...</i>	MP: 454-484 BK: 18	
3/18	Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues...</i>	MP: 454-84	HW 6 Due
Week 11			

3/21	Spring Break: Classes Cancelled		
3/23	Spring Break: Classes Cancelled		
3/25	Spring Break: Classes Cancelled		
Week 12			
3/28	Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues...</i>	Cont'd	Assign HW 7
3/30	Hume, <i>An Enquiry...</i>	MP: 509-11 & 533-64 BK: 226-8, Ch. 19, Ch. 20	
4/1	Hume, <i>An Enquiry...</i>	Cont'd	
Week 13			
4/4	Hume, <i>An Enquiry...</i>	MP: 565-75	
4/6	Hume, <i>A Treatise... & An Enquiry...</i>	MP: 517-25 & 586-96	
4/8	Hume, <i>A Treatise... & An Enquiry...</i>	Cont'd	
Week 14			
4/11	Hume, <i>A Treatise... & An Enquiry...</i>	MP: 525-32 & 593-600 BK: Ch. 21 & 274-8	HW 7 Due Assign HW 8
4/13	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	MP: 655-60 & 661-72 BK: 279-83 & 298-300	Deadline for Topic Approval
4/15	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	Cont'd	
Week 15			
4/18	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	MP: 672-9 BK: Ch. 24	
4/20	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	MP: 679-695 BK: Ch. 25 & 26	
4/22	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	Cont'd	
Week 16			
4/25	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	MP: 695-706 BK: Ch. 27	
4/27	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i>	MP: 706-716	HW 8 Due
4/29	Review		Term Paper Due
5/6	Final	10:30am – 12:30pm	

Other policies:

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized aid on examinations or other assigned work, and plagiarism. For more on academic honesty and dishonesty, including UCMO's definition of 'plagiarism' see: <http://www.ucmo.edu/acct/documents/AcademicHonestyPolicy.pdf>

Intellectual Property: Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the **property of the instructor**. Video and audio recording of lectures without the consent of the instructor is **prohibited**. On request, the instructor may grant permission for students and auditors to audiotape lectures, on the condition that the individual making the recording only uses these audio recordings as a study aid. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to

any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course. **Students and auditors of this class are also prohibited from making commercial use of class lectures.**

Students with Disabilities: The Office of Accessible Services, Elliot Union 222, 660-543-4421, coordinates accommodations and services for UCM students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in UCMO classes and have not contacted the Office of Accessible Services, please do so as soon as possible. They will contact me regarding the accommodations you need.