Modern European Philosophy

Phil-A410-01
Fall, 2006

(This is not a Common Curriculum course)

Instructor: Dr. Gary B. Herbert (Her bert) TR, 11:00—12:15
Office: BO 437 Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 1:30-4:00

The Empiricists (New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc.) 0-385-09622-4
Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc.) 0-672-60187-7

Assignments

Tues., Aug. 29 Introduction, Mechanics
Tues., Sept. 5 Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part II, in The Rationalists (pp. 46-54)
Thurs., Sept. 7 Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part III, in The Rationalists (pp. 55-61)
Tues., Sept. 12 Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part IV, in The Rationalists (pp. 62-68)
Thurs., Sept. 14 11:00 classes, Mass of the Holy Spirit. No class
Tues., Sept. 19 Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part V, in The Rationalists (pp. 69-82)
Thurs., Sept. 21 Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part VI, in The Rationalists (pp. 83-96)
[Sept. 25: Kepler warned by consistory in Stuttgart to subdue his speculative spirit, leave testament untroubled by his unnecessary subtleties, scruples and glosses, 1612]
Tues., Sept. 26 Descartes, (continued)
Thurs., Sept. 28 Descartes, (continued)
Tues., Oct. 3 First Celebration
Tues., Oct. 5 Benedict Spinoza, The Ethics, Part I, in The Rationalists, (pp. 179-215)
Thurs., Oct. 10 Benedict Spinoza, The Ethics, Part II, in The Rationalists, (pp. 216-261)
Tues., Oct. 17 Fall break: no class
Tues., Oct. 24 Benedict Spinoza, The Ethics, (cont.)
Tues., Oct. 31 Leibniz, Monadology, in The Rationalists, (pp. 455-471)
Thurs., Nov. 2 Second Celebration
Tues., Nov. 7 David Hume, Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, in The Empiricists, (Section 12, pp. 417-430; Sections 1-8, pp. 307-364)
Thurs., Nov. 9 David Hume, Enquiry (continued)
[Nov. 10, 1619: birthday of modern philosophy, Ülm, Germany]
Tues., Nov. 14 David Hume, Enquiry (continued)
November 14: died, G. W. F. Hegel, 1831; G. W. Leibniz, 1716
Thurs., Nov. 16 Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Preamble and First Part (pp. 13-41)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., Nov. 21</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, <em>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</em>, Part Two (pp. 42-74)</td>
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<td>Thurs., Nov. 23</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving: No class</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 24, 1632: born, Benedict Spinoza</td>
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<td>Tues., Nov. 28</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, <em>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</em>, Third Part (pp. 75-98)</td>
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<td>Thurs., Nov. 30</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, <em>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</em>, Conclusion and Solution (pp. 99-119)</td>
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<td>Tues., Dec. 5</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant (continued)</td>
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<td>Thurs., Dec. 7</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant (continued)</td>
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**Final Glorious Celebration:** Dec. 9-15

**Course Description:**

The Early Modern period of philosophy has its origins in the 16th and 17th centuries, and reaches its high point in the works of late 18th-century thinkers. We will examine in detail a few seminal philosophical works of this period: some from the “Continental Rationalists,” namely René Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz; and some from the “British Empiricists,” such as John Locke and David Hume. We will also examine a work by Immanuel Kant, who many believe was the last great Early Modern philosopher. Our aim will be to trace the history of philosophical thought through this era, to understand the issues and ideas of these philosophers against the backdrop of their historical contexts, and also to see how their views have profoundly influenced ours on a variety of issues, particularly those problems and theories concerning the nature of reality and knowledge.

**Mechanics:**

**Exams:** There will be three examinations (celebrations) in this course, inclusive of the final exam. Each exam will be essay in format and will constitute 1/4th of the course grade. The final exam will not be comprehensive.

**Term Paper:** A ten to fifteen page paper will be required in this course. The topic of the term paper can be chosen from any of the issues raised in the course. Agreement of the instructor is required for topics. Each student should first select a topic, issue or subject that he or she wishes to investigate and give a short, written note to the instructor. To develop the topic, students should then collect a bibliography of journal articles from major philosophical journals (consult the *Philosopher’s Index*) and books published on this theme, and turn in a copy of the proposal and bibliography to the instructor. An abstract or outline of the paper should be turned in some time in November. The final draft of the paper will be due the last week of classes. No paper will be accepted without a prior approval of an abstract or outline. Sources should be cited and quoted. The term paper will count 1/4 of the course grade. Students may want to consider possible, eventual submission of papers to The Loyola Philosophy Journal, to be considered for inclusion in one of its issues.

**Attendance:** Attendance is expected at all classes. Absence from more than 25% of the total of 28 classes assigned (i.e. 7 classes), for whatever reason or at whatever stage of the semester, excused or otherwise, will result in a grade reduction. Absence from more than 40% of the total of 28 classes (i.e. 11.2 classes) will result in a failing grade for the course. An absence on an examination day may be excused only for reasons that are grave, serious and unavoidable (i.e. usually medical), and, except in very unusual circumstances, only if the instructor has been notified prior to the examination. Ordinarily, rainy weather, over-sleeping, having a cold, having another exam scheduled that day in another class, failing to know that an exam was scheduled for that day, having an opportunity to get a ride home for the week-end, or having to attend your cousin's wedding rehearsal in Dallas are not grave, serious and unavoidable reasons.
Dates on the syllabus are only tentative and will be adjusted to fit the pace of the course.

Goals and Objectives: Please consult the Department of Philosophy: Goals and Learning Objectives (http://www......) for the Philosophy Department’s goals and objectives for Upper Level Philosophy Common Curriculum and also the College of Arts and Sciences Goals and Objectives of the Common Curriculum (http://cas.loyno.edu/common/purpose.html)/

History of Modern European Philosophy has been designed to satisfy Goal 3 and 3a of the Department of Philosophy: Objectives for Upper Level Philosophy Common Curriculum Courses: (3) Development of capacity to understand and assess “philosophical traditions” (which encompass a rich diversity of movements and thinkers). (3a.) Development of student capacity to articulate clearly and evaluate with insight philosophical arguments, problems, questions, or issues linking what are arguably works of significant authors within either the pre-modern or modern periods of the history of philosophy, and also Goal 6b: Development of student capacity to formulate clearly and evaluate with insight the philosophical (e.g. epistemological, metaphysical, or ethical) or the anti-philosophical aspects of salient issues in contemporary life and culture.

History of Modern European Philosophy has also been designed to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences Objective of helping students to develop

An understanding of philosophical and religious traditions

Disability statement

A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.

Gary B. Herbert, gherbert@loyno.edu