

Reading Assignments & Class Calendar

Note: if a reading is listed for a particular date, that's the date on which you must have the reading done!

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics and Readings</u>
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Week #1

5/11 Introduction: (a) syllabus, (b) why study the history of modern philosophy? (c) three Fundamental Frameworks and the Background to the *Meditations on First Philosophy* (No readings; Available on website: History Handout; List of Philosophers Handout)

PART I: RATIONALISM

5/12 Meditations I & II: The quest for certainty, methodological skepticism, the critique of common sense, the Cogito, the nature of the ego, the wax argument; Preparation for Meditation III (Handout #1) (READINGS: *Preface to the Reader, Synopsis, Meditation I; "Objections and Replies" on Meditation I; Meditation II, "Objections and Replies" on Meditation II. Study Guide Worksheet #1 due*)

5/13 Background to Meditation III cont'd, then Meditation III: stepping through Descartes's proof for God's existence from the nature of ideas; Criticism of Med. III proof, Other Proofs; Beginning Meditation IV: Why God isn't a deceiver; how error is possible. (READINGS: *Meditation III; "Objections and Replies on Meditation III; Meditation IV; Handout #1 cont'd; Handouts #2 and 2suppl. Study Guide Worksheet #2 due*)

5/14 Meditation III Cont'd + Introduction to Meditation IV (READINGS: *Meditation IV; 'Objections and Replies on Meditation IV'; See Powerpoint Slideshow on Meditation IV*)

5/15 Meditation IV and V: Descartes' Solution to the Various Problems of Error; Criticisms of Descartes' solution to the problem(s) of error in Meditation IV; Descartes's Meditation V "ontological" proof for God's existence; the existence of the External World (EW), the role of Med. 5 in preparing for Med. 6's proof for the existence of an EW, and the mind-body problem. (READINGS: *Meditation IV cont'd; "Objections and Replies" on Meditation IV cont'd; Meditation V; "Objections and Replies" on Meditation V*)

5/17

****Timed Online Quiz #1 in Canvas (45 minutes, on Meditations I, II and III)****