

Schedule of Lecture Topics, Associated Readings, Dates for Papers, Exercises and Exams

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

Week

Topic, (Reading)

Week #1

Jan. 14 Introduction: (a) syllabus, (b) why study the history of modern philosophy? (c) three Fundamental Frameworks (No readings—**History Handout**, **Early Modern Philosophers Handout**)

PART I: RATIONALISM

Jan. 16 Framework of the Meditations *Continued* (no new reading)

Week #2

Jan. 21 Meditation 1: The quest for certainty, methodological skepticism, and the critique of common sense (**READING: Preface to the Reader, Synopsis, Meditation I; "Objections and Replies" on Meditation I**; [NOTE: The only reading materials you need are available for download on the CANVAS site under Course Content (this include all of Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* as well as a Word document that contains all of the Objections and Replies addendum to several of the original editions of that work])

Jan. 23 Meditation 1 cont'd (no new readings) + Meditation 2: The Cogito, the Nature of the Ego, and the Wax Argument. (**READING: Meditation 2.) Group #1 Reading Report (on Meditation 1)**)

Week #3

Jan. 28 Meditation 2 continued: How is the Cogito Belief able to overcome the EDH? How can RD know *anything* about the wax (after all, he doesn't know he has a body yet!!!)? (no new readings) **In-Class Quiz #1 on Meditation 1 (30 minutes)**

Jan. 30 Meditation 3: Intuition, ideas, and types of reality; Descartes's proof that God exists given the fact that we have an Idea of God (an Idea we could not have created with our finite and limited intellects!). Stepping through the proof. (No new readings; Handout #1b). (**READING: Meditation 3. Handout #1a**)

Week #4

Feb. 4 Meditation 3 cont'd: how the proof works, then criticisms of the proof; One Other Proof in Med 3. (**READING: Meditation 3.) Group #2 Reading Report (on Meditation 3)**)

Feb. 6 Meditation 4: Why God isn't a deceiver; how error is possible; New Problem: The Cartesian Circle (and a possible solution to that problem). (**READING: Meditation 4; READING AHEAD: Meditation 5; Handout #2 & 2suppl**)

Week #5

Feb. 11 Meditation 5&6: Med. 5's topics: defeating the EDH for math beliefs, THEN proving: The nature of any possible external world, *should it exist*; the "ontological" proof for God's existence; preparing for Med. 6's proof for the existence of an External World (EW); Med. 6's topics: RD's proof that the external world exists (and we can know that despite the Evil Demon's attempt at deception), why we no longer must worry that the EDH undermines our *most carefully tested* sense beliefs. (**READING AHEAD: Meditation 6) In-Class Quiz #2 (on Meditation 3) (30 minutes)**)

****Topics for First Paper Available on Website and Canvas****

Feb. 13 Meditation 6 cont'd: Leftover problems: the fact that the Mind and the Body have causal influence on each other (inconsistent with RD's Causal Principle), and RD's solution to that problem: solving the as-yet-unsolved Dream Problem (how can I know my sense beliefs are not based on a vivid dream life?).(no new readings; **Group #3 Reading Report (on Meditation 6)**)

Week #6

Feb. 18 Meditation 6 cont'd

Feb. 20 Final Review and Conclusions about Descartes *Meditations*. Introduction to Leibniz's world: The Monadology. (Reading: **Simon Sparks' translation of *Monadology*, paragraphs 1 through 38**, available for download on the website under Online Versions of Course Texts) **Handout #3**

Feb. 24 **Online-Quiz #3 (on Meditations 4 & 6) (35 minutes)**

PART II: EMPIRICISM

Week #7

- Feb. 25 More on Monadology, paragraphs 1 through 38, *plus* introduction to Leibniz's argument that the actual world is the best of all possible worlds! (**READING: Simon Sparks' translation of *Monadology*, paragraphs 39 through the end**) **Group #4 Report (on paras 39-end, *Monadology*)** **Handout #4**
- Feb. 27 Finish Leibniz's argument that this world is the best of all possible worlds. **Group #4 Report on paragraphs 39-end.** Introduction to Locke Against Innate Ideas. (Reading: Locke's *Essay*, Book I, Chapter II, §1-9, 12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-22, 24
- Mar. 2

Week #8

- Mar. 4 More on Locke against innate ideas, *plus*: Locke on acquired ideas and mental powers. (Reading: Locke's *Essay*, Book II, Chapter I, §1-9 inclusive; Book II, Chapter II, §1-3, Chapter III, §1-2, Chapter IV, §1-6, Chapter V, intro; Chapter VI, §1-2.) **Group #5 Reading Report (on Today's Readings) POSTPONED TO THURSDAY March 6; (Online) Quiz #4 (on Leibniz' *Monadology*) (No time limit; due in Canvas by 11:59 pm)**
- Mar. 6 Locke on acquired ideas and mental powers *plus* introduction to Locke on qualities. (Reading: Locke's *Essay*, Chapter IX, §8-12; Chapter X, §1-2, Chapter XI, §1, 4, 6, 8-11, 15, 17; Chapter XII, §1-8; Chapter XXII, §1-5)

Week #9

- Mar. 11 Locke on qualities and substances *plus* Locke on consciousness and personal identity. (Reading: Locke's *Essay*, Book II, Chapter VIII, §7-26, Chapter XXIII, §1-12, 14-20, 22-23, 25, 28, 30-37; Book II, Chapter I, §10-14, 19-20, 23-25; Chapter XXVII, §1-29.) **Group #6 Reading Report (on Today's Readings)**
- Mar. 13 Locke on qualities and substances *plus* consciousness and personal identity, problems with these theories, Locke wrap-up.

Week #10

- Mar. 18 Introduction to Hume's "mental geography" and theory of ideas + Partial introduction to Hume's theory of judgment and the strategy for his critique of the rationalist principle of sufficient reason, and the idea of a causal relationship (partial coverage today). (Reading: Hume's *Enquiry*, Author's Advertisement, Section I, Section II)
- Mar. 20 Hume's theory of judgment and the strategy for his critique of the rationalist principle of sufficient reason, and the idea of a causal relationship+Hume's Attack on Induction+Critical analysis of Hume's empiricist alternative account of causal relations. (Reading: *Enquiry*, Section III, IV, Parts I&II; Section V, Part I&II, Section VI, Section VII, Part I&II; **Handouts #5 & #6**). **Group #7 Reading Report (on Today's Readings)**
- Mar. 23 ****First Paper Due by 11:59 pm in Canvas****

Week #11

- Mar. 25 Spring Break (no classes)

****Topics for Second Paper Available on Website and CANVAS****

- Mar. 27 Spring Break (no classes)

- Mar. 30 **Online Quiz #5 (Comprehensive on Locke Unit due by 11:59 pm today in Canvas. Counts as two quizzes for final grade purposes)**

Week #12

- Apr. 1 Finishing Hume ... Introduction to Berkeley's extreme reaction to Locke, known as Phenomenalism or Berkeleyan Idealism (Reading: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, First Dialogue. **Group #8 Reading Report (on Today's Readings).**
- Apr. 3 Berkeley on Perception, Existence and Human Knowledge. (Reading: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Second Dialogue.
- April, 6 **Online Quiz #6 (Comprehensive on the Hume Unit) Online-Only, No Time Limit, due 11:59 pm in Canvas**

Week #13

- Apr. 8 Berkeley on Perception, Existence and Human Knowledge. (Reading: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Second Dialogue.)
- Apr. 10 Finishing Berkeley; Reid's (and other's) attack on the "idea"-idea. What Descartes, Hume, Locke and Berkeley all assumed about the nature of ideas. (Reading: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Third Dialogue)
- April 12 **Online Quiz #7 (on Berkeley's attack on the concept of a material substance in Dialogues #1 and #2) (Online-Only, No Time Limit)**

PART III: KANT'S *CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON* BEYOND RATIONALISM AND EMPIRICISM

Week #14

- Apr. 15 The Old problem of Objectivity: Kant's Copernican revolution and the reconciliation of rationalism and empiricism and the New problem of Objectivity. (Reading: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* [CPR], Preface to 1st Edition, Preface to 2nd Edition, Introduction to 1st Edition; Handouts #7-#8; **Group #9 Reading Report (on Today's Readings)**)
- Apr. 17 Kant solves the Old Problem of Objectivity and creates the New Problem of Objectivity. The Transcendental Aesthetic (TA) and transcendental idealism, or, *How the Active Faculty of Appearances Creates Something A Priori in Perception*. (Reading: Kant's CPR, Introduction to 2nd Edition, Transcendental Doctrine of the Elements, First Part.)

Week #15

- Apr. 22 Transcendental Aesthetic (continued): How what is given to sensibility is made to conform to the transcendental form of Space. (Same Reading as last time; useful resources include Video Recordings of a lecture on Kant's Model of Mind, and another on Kant's Transcendental Aesthetic)
- Apr. 24 Transcendental Aesthetic (continued): Why mathematical judgments are *synthetic*, not *analytic*, and how that establishes additional proof that what Kant has established in the TA is not only true, but necessary as conditions of the possibility of mathematical judgments in arithmetic and geometry (and bonus: additional proof that Transcendental Idealism is true; handout on Mathematical Judgments on course website under Lectures and Handouts/Lecture Notes, and a Video Recording on that topic).

Week #16

- Apr. 29 Transcendental Analytic: The Role of the Faculty of Judgment in the Constitution of Experience—First Step: Contribution from the Forms of Judgment. (**READINGS:** *Critique of Pure Reason*: Transcendental Doctrine of Elements, First Division: Transcendental Analytic, Book I Analytic of Concepts, Chapter 1, On the Clue to the Discovery of all Pure Concepts of Understanding, First Section, Second Section, Third Section; **Group #10 Reading Report (on Today's Readings)**)
- Apr. 30 **Online Untimed Quiz #8 (on Kant's *Transcendental Aesthetic*)**
- May 1 Final Kant lecture explaining how the faculty of judgment makes the experience of objects (=empirical intuitions can be constituted as *objects of experience* with *necessary relations among their properties* and *with other objects of experience, in principle* (=Kant's ultimate solution to Hume's Problem) (**Optional readings:** *Critique of Pure Reason*: Transcendental Doctrine of Elements, First Division: Transcendental Analytic, Book I Analytic of Concepts, Chapter 2, Of the Deduction of the Pure Concepts of the Understanding [BUT ONLY THE A-Edition Material])

****Untimed Online Quiz #9 (CANCELLED....but All Students Get an "A" for it!)****

****Second Paper Due May 2 (but accepted up until May 5 at 11:59 p.m.)****

****Optional Revised First Paper Due May 2 at 11:59 p.m.****

**** Online, Untimed Final Exam due May 5 by 11:59 pm, available from May 2 at 8:00 a.m. in Canvas****