

Phil. 384 History of Modern Philosophy I
Fall 2008, MWF 1:30-2:20
Location: B2, room: 350

Professor: Gerry Callaghan

Office: HH 366

Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00, Wednesday 2:30-3:15, or by appointment.

Communication:

*Please note that email is the **preferred** method of communication if and when you cannot see me in person.*

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Course Description:

This course surveys some of the key philosophical works of the early modern period. We will focus centrally on the work of Descartes, Locke, Leibniz and Berkeley. In addition, we will discuss aspects of the work of a variety of thinkers who either influenced these key figures or commented critically on their views. (Some likely candidates for discussion are Hobbes, Boyle, Newton and Arnauld) Our aim will be to develop both historical and critical perspectives on the period. We will proceed by analyzing key doctrines and debates in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology.

Required Texts:

Readings in Modern Philosophy, Vol. I: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz and Associated Texts

Edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins

Hackett Publishing Company, 2000

Readings in Modern Philosophy, Vol. II: Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Associated Texts

Edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins

Hackett Publishing Company, 2000

Requirements:

(Note: A Detailed schedule of readings and dates for assignments and will be distributed in the first week of class.)

Short paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced), 20% of final grade

Term Paper (approx. 8 pages, double-spaced) 40% of final grade

Final Exam (2 hrs; to be held during examination period), 40% of final grade

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per weekday late. There will be no exceptions without a documented excuse of sufficient weight (e.g. a medical emergency).

In addition to the written work outlined above, students are expected to attend all classes and to prepare for class discussion by reading the assigned texts *prior* to the session in which they are covered.

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

See overleaf

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.