

Philosophy 210 A01: Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy
(Winter Session 2016-2017, Second Term [Spring])
Section: A01 (CRN: 22404)

General Course Information, Recommended Supplementary Reading, Schedule

1. General Course Information

<u>Location & Time:</u>	CLE A203; 10:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
<u>Instructor:</u>	Dr. David Scott
<u>Instructor's Office:</u>	CLE B320
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Mon. & Thurs. 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (by appointment only)
<u>Telephone & Email:</u>	250-721-7517; djfscott@uvic.ca

ABOUT THIS COURSE:

Over the course of our intellectual history there have been periods of philosophical activity that have stood out in terms of their profundity and rich variety. Perhaps the three most famous periods are those of the ancient Greece of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, the medieval Islamic and Christian era, and the early modern period (spanning roughly from Descartes to Kant). This course focuses on the latter era, and in particular on what has been called the distinction between rationalist philosophers (Descartes, Spinoza, Malebranche, Leibniz) and empiricist philosophers (Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley Hume). Though we will not be studying all of these philosophers, you will be introduced to a sufficiently broad selection of writings to permit you to obtain an overall perspective on this important philosophical era.

TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIAL:

Early Modern Philosophy: Essential Readings With Commentary, ed. A. P. Martinich, Fritz Allhoff, and Anand Jayprakash Vaidya (Wiley-Blackwell 2007), ISBN-13: 978-1405135672.

Supplementary material (posted on CourseSpaces) on the philosophy of John Locke (concerning knowledge and personal identity), and on the philosophy of David Hume (concerning knowledge and personal identity).

MARKING SCHEME:

In-class test (15%); take-home essay (25%); in-class test (25%); final exam (35%).

Letter grades correspond to the following marks: A+ = 90 - 100, A = 85 - 89, A- = 80 - 84, B+ = 77 - 79, B = 73 - 76, B- = 70 - 72, C+ = 65 - 69, C = 60 - 64, D = 50 - 59, F = 0 - 49.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

In this course you can assume that all essay or exam topics are intended to test you on *the material covered in class*. You are of course permitted and encouraged to supplement class discussion of the subject with outside material, but the minimum expectation is that you deal with the material covered in class, and that you address the points raised there about that material. This does not mean that for tests

substance. In indicating these evaluation criteria I emphasize that philosophy is an *arts* or *humanities*

OFFICE HOURS

2. Class Schedule*

WEEK 1: (Jan. 5)

Thurs. Jan. 5 - Course Introduction:

WEEK 2 (Jan. 9, 12)

Mon. Jan. 9 - Science, Skepticism, Method.

Thurs. Jan. 12 - Science, Skepticism, Method.

WEEK 3 (Jan. 16, 19)

Mon. Jan. 16 - Science, Skepticism, Method.

Thurs. Jan. 19 - Science, Skepticism, Method.

WEEK 4 (Jan. 23, 26)

Mon. Jan. 23 - Science, Skepticism, Method. Essay topic Assigned.

Thurs. Jan. 26 - Test #1 (15%)

WEEK 5 (Jan. 30, Feb. 2)

Mon. Jan. 30 - Descartes & Critics.

Thurs. Feb. 2 - Descartes & Critics.

WEEK 6 (Feb. 6, 9)

Mon. Feb. 6 - Descartes & Critics.

Thurs. Feb. 9 - Descartes & Critics.

WEEK 7 (Feb. 13, 16)

Mon. Feb. 13 - Mid-term break: no classes.

Thurs. Feb. 16 - Mid-term break: no classes.

WEEK 8 (Feb. 20, 23)

Mon. Feb. 20 - Empiricists. Descartes essay due (25%)

Thurs. Feb. 23 - Empiricists.

WEEK 9 (Feb. 27, March 2)

Mon. Feb. 27 - Empiricists.

Thurs. March 2 - Empiricists.

WEEK 10 (March 6, 9)

Mon. March 6 - Empiricists

Thurs. March 9 - In-class test (25%).

WEEK 11 (March 13, 16)

Mon. March 13 - Rationalists

Thurs. March 16 - Rationalists

WEEK 12 (March 20, 23)

Mon. March 20 - Rationalists

Thurs. March 23 - Rationalists

WEEK 13 (March 27, 30)

Mon. March 27 - Rationalists

Thurs. March 30 - Rationalists

WEEK 14 (April 3)

Mon. April 3 - Rationalists. Last class of term. Review.

FINAL EXAM PERIOD FOR THIS SEMESTER: April 7 – 25.

* This schedule is subject to revision, as oosio*theiso ssioss J T-of8.1 (r)1.5 (s)de8.1 (s)1.5 ssov svv

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