Philosophy 306: The Rationalists (Winter Session 2018, First Term [Fall])

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND CLASS POLICIES:

(a) Class discussion & participation: In general, my classes tend to involve lots of discussion. I encourage and greatly value your in-class contributions, and I can assure you that other students do too. It is a frequently unacknowledged fac

likely that others have the same one too. So, go ahead and ask your question, or make your comment: it helps me, you, and your classmates. And the more you talk, the less I talk, and surely that is a good thing! If, however, you are more shy or reserved but still have comments or questions, please come see me during office hours.

(b) Emailing me: Because of problems with SPAM and viruses transmitted by email, I have to request that whenever yo

delete your email without opening it. In addition to this, I would greatly appreciate it if you observed the

This piece of social etiquette is rooted in the recognition that people are not simply inanimate objects (like ATM machines), but should be addressed before being spoken to.

(c) Coming late to class: The classroom is a work environment, and when students arrive late this can be a distraction. So please try to be on time.

(d) Visits to the classroom by non-registered students: As the instructor for this class I am duty-bound to ensure that a work environment is preserved in the class. Both students and I can find it a distraction for strangers to walk into the classroom. It takes some students a good deal of time before they gain confidence to participate in the class proceedings, and the presence of a stranger can be disruptive in that regard. If, as sometimes happens, you wish to invite a friend to attend my class to check it out, you need to ask permission ahead of time.

(e) Use of computers & hand-held media/communication devices, etc., in the class: For the purpose of

 Woolhouse, R. S. Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz: The Concept of Substance in Seventeenth Century Metaphysics, London & New York: Routledge 1993.
Yolton, J. Perceptual Acquaintance from Descartes to Reid, Minneapolis: U. of Minnesota Press, 1984.

B. Books on Descartes:

Alanen, L.

III. Class Schedule*

WEEK 1: (Sept. 6) Thurs. Sept. 6

- Introduction: History of Philosophy & Rationalism.

WEEK 2 (Sept. 10 & 13)

Mon. Sept. 10

- The Enlightenment and Aristotle. - Descartes, Rules for the Direction of the Mind / Discourse on the Method. Thurs. Sept. 13

WEEK 3 (Sept. 17 & 20)

Mon. Sept. 17 - Descartes, Discourse on the Method. Thurs. Sept. 20 -Discourse on the Method.

WEEK 4 (Sept. 24 & 27)

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Mon. Dec. 3 - Last class of term for this course. Review.

Exams for this term begin on Dec. 8, and end on Dec. 22.

* This schedule is subject to revision, as occasionally the discussion and flow of ideas in class require us to spend more time on certain subjects, less time on others, than originally anticipated.