

**Philosophy 306: The Rationalists (Winter Session 2019, First Term [Fall])  
Section: A01 (CRN: 12487)**

**General Course Information, Recommended Supplementary Reading, Schedule**

**I. General Course Information**

Location & Time:  
Instructor:

COR B129; 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

depth of analysis, i.e. how far into the issue analysis is pushed  
resourcefulness, originality and imagination  
tightness, rigor or logical coherence of analysis  
overall quality of philosophical insight and expression

I stress that the order of these criteria is not absolute. Thus, sometimes less important criteria will be given more weight than more important ones. For instance, a student's use and analysis of examples might be so good that I am led to conclude that that student has an excellent understanding of the subject. In such a case the value I attach to the use of examples might increase significantly, and I might overlook the fact that, for instance, the student has failed to cover as many points as other students.

d) Academic Honesty: Cheating of *any* kind, including collusion (working with others too closely) and plagiarism from (i) books and/or articles, (ii) other students' papers, and (iii) papers or other material on the internet, is a serious academic offence. University regulations also prohibit students from submitting the same work for two different courses; in other words, plagiarizing or "recycling" one's own work is not permitted. If detected, cheating can result in dismissal from this course (with an "F"), and dismissal from the university. Here is a link to the University's Academic Integrity policy:

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#### SUBMITTING AND RETURNING GRADED WORK:

(a) All essays must be *typed (12-font, Times), double-spaced, paginated, and contain the word-count on the front cover*. Essays should be stapled, *not* paper-clipped. I will not accept essays submitted as email attachments; nor will I accept essays that exceed the maximum word limit. In cases where I think the word limit has been exceeded, I will require an electronic copy to check. I'm afraid I will not be available to discuss test or essay questions on the day before or on the day they are due to be submitted, as I need to avoid being swamped by last-minute enquiries.

(b) In general, I will return your graded work during class time, within two weeks of its having been submitted. If you are not there to receive your work when I return it in class, you can pick it up either from me in my office or, if you are willing to sign a waiver form, from the "Returned Work" box outside the departmental office. The Protection of Privacy Act prevents me from placing your work in that box unless you have signed the waiver form.

(c) When graded work is returned to you it will frequently be annotated with comments. If you wish to discuss your work with me, please read those comments first. To give you a chance to do this, as a matter of policy I do not discuss work on the same day as it is returned.

#### LATE ASSIGNMENTS / MISSED TESTS:

Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty, unless justified by a medical or other

(still) standard courtesy of beginning your emails with a salutation, e.g., “Dear Dr. Scott”, “Hello Dr. Scott”, etc. (as opposed to, e.g., “hey Dave”, which for my taste is too informal). Use of this kind of salutation is a piece of social etiquette rooted in the recognition that people are not simply inanimate objects (like ATM machines), but should be addressed before being spoken to. Simply put, unlike ATM machines, humans have the *option* to respond, so it’s wise to ask them nicely.

(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 taking notes, you are permitted to use laptops with quiet keyboards in the classroom. Attending to computers or hand held-devices for obviously or apparently non-academic purposes, e.g., watching films, surfing the web, texting, etc., is prohibited.

## II. Recommended Supplementary Reading

### A. General Accounts of Rationalism & the Early Modern Period:

- Aune, B. *Rationalism, Empiricism, and Pragmatism*. New York: Random House, 1970.
- Buchdahl, Gerd. *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science: The Classical Origins: Descartes to Kant*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1969.
- Collins, J. *God in Modern Philosophy*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1960.
- Cottingham, J.G. *Rationalism*, London: Paladin Books, 1984. [B833 C67]
- Cottingham, J.G. *The Rationalists*, Oxford & New York: Oxford U.P., 1988. [B791 H5 v.4]
- Hamlyn, D.W. *Sensation and Perception* (ch. 5), London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1961.
- Jarrett, C.E., King-Farlow, J. & Pelletier, F.J. (eds.) *New Essays on Rationalism and Empiricism*, Guelph, Ontario: Canadian Journal of Philosophy, sup. vol. 4, 1978.
- Jolley, N. *The Light of the Soul*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989. [B822 J65]
- Kenny, A. (ed.) *Rationalism, Empiricism and Idealism*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986. [B791 R33]
- Koyré, Alexandre. *From the Closed World to the Infinite Universe*.
- Laporte, J. *Études d'histoire de la philosophie française au xvii siècle*, Paris: J. Vrin, 1951.
- Lennon, T.M. *The Battle of Gods and Giants: The Legacies of Descartes and Gassendi, 1655*

Kemp Smith, Norman. *New Studies in the Philosophy of Descartes*, London: Macmillan 1952. [B1875 S58]  
Kenny, A. *Descartes: A Study of his Philosophy*, New York: Random House 1968. [B1875 K4]  
Laporte, J. *Le rationalisme de Descartes*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France 1950.  
Rorty, A. O. (ed.) *Essays on Descartes' Meditations*, Berkeley: U. of California Press 1986.  
Rozemond, M. *Descartes's Dualism*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 1998. [B1875 M55 R68]  
Schouls, P. *Descartes and the Enlightenment*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh U. P., 1989. [B1875 S365]  
Wilson, M.D.

Mon. Oct. 7  
Thurditations

- Descartes' *Meditations*.