

Phil. 306
The Rationalists
 Spring Semester, 2022

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 Office Hours: Mondays 10:40-11:40 and Thursdays 1:15-2:15, and by appointment

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the works of intellectually important and representative philosophers of the 17th century. Their works will be set in historical perspective, and lines of influence will be explored. An attempt will be made to relate their speculations to contemporary philosophical issues.

Texts:

There are some good older translations of Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz which may be read with benefit by the students, as these older translations frequently contain excellent commentaries. They are:

- Descartes: Veitch transl. (available at <http://www.wright.edu/cola/descartes/mede.html>)
- Malebranche, *Dialogues on Metaphysics and Religion*, available on-line at <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/malebranche1688.pdf>
- Spinoza: Elwes transl. (available at <http://capone.mtsu.edu/rbombard/RB/Spinoza/ethica-front.html>)
- Leibniz: Latta transl. (available at <http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rutherford/Leibniz/translations/Monadology.pdf>

Optional newer translations are

- Descartes, *Meditations* (transl. Cottingham), available at <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/descartes/1639/meditations.htm>
- Ariew R. *Rene Descartes: Philosophical Essays and Correspondence* (Hackett: Indianapolis, 2000) ISBN 0-87022-502-9
- Edwin M. Curley. *A Spinoza Reader: The Ethics and Other Works* (Princeton University Press) ISBN 0-691-00067-0
- Woolhouse and Ranks ed. *G.W. Leibniz: Philosophical Texts* (Oxford U Press) ISBN 0-19-875153-2

Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures

There will be two examinations—a mid-term examination and a final examination—and a term paper (not to exceed 10 pages with references, to be handed in electronically, MS-Word format preferred). The mid-

grade to be disregarded and the final examination count for 80% of their course grade. Exceptions to the course requirements, adjustments for taking examinations at set examination dates, etc. will only be made in accordance with UVic regulations as published in the Calendar. It is the responsibility of the students to acquaint themselves and significant others with this fact so that vacations, family reunions, weddings etc. can be planned accordingly. The mid-term examination will be returned as soon as it is graded. Final examinations are the property of the University and will not be returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office at a time designated by the University. Term papers will be available from the instructor one week after they have been handed in.

Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the

