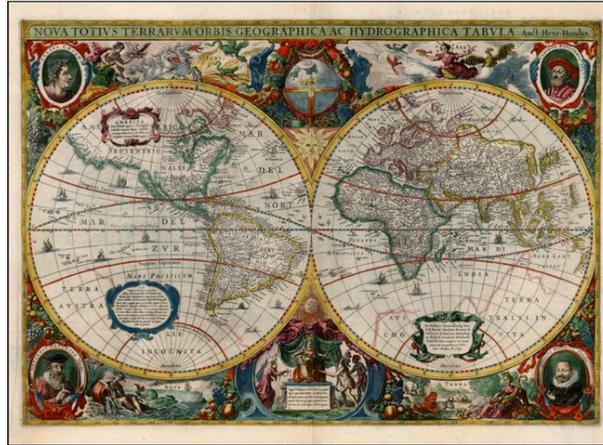


HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

University of Notre Dame

Fall 2021



Map of the World
Seventeenth Century

Course Description

The 17th and 18th centuries brought about not only revolutionary changes in science, society, religion, and politics, but also crucial intellectual developments in philosophy. The so-called “modern philosophers” were deeply engaged in developing new approaches to understanding the relationships between God, nature and human beings. These philosophers decisively shaped the debates of intellectuals, scientists, and political and religious leaders in their own time and ever since. In this course, we will explore the central themes of modern philosophy, including issues such as: the nature and knowledge of God; the nature of the human mind and its relationship to the body; conceptions of the self and of human rationality; scepticism and knowledge of the external world; the nature of causation; the possibility of human freedom and its role for morality, religion, and politics; explanations of evil and human suffering. We will pay particular attention to the way in which the problems, methods, and proposed solutions that were central for the modern philosophers still inform our debates in philosophy (and beyond) today.

PHIL 30302

Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Place: Hayes Healy Center 127

Instructor: Prof. Katharina Kraus
E-mail: kkraus2@nd.edu
Office: Malloy Hall 309
Office hour: Thursdays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
(and by appointment)

Teaching Assistants:	Claire Murphy	Huimin Liu
E-mails:	cmurph33@nd.edu	hliu23@nd.edu
Offices:	Malloy Hall 300	Malloy Hall 111
Office hours:	Fridays, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (and by appointment)	Fridays, 12:30 – 2:00 pm (and by appointment)

SAKAI:

Course-related material, such as additional readings (except for the required textbook), lecture slides, assignment prompts, will be made available on the SAKAI portal. Make sure that you have joined the course and adjusted your settings to receive notifications and messages. Important updates will be posted on the course page and sent via email through the SAKAI messaging system.

Learning objectives:

Successful completion of this course will enable you to:

- Understand and critically examine philosophical texts from the early modern period;
- Understand the major philosophical themes of the early modern period and their relevance to current debates;
- Analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments (validity, soundness, effectiveness) and positions;
- Improve your ability to argue convincingly and responsibly for a position, both orally and in writing;
- Successfully plan and write philosophical essays;
- Be prepared to participate in advanced seminars on the history of philosophy.

Policies and expectations

Students are expected to arrive on time for each class meeting and be prepared to actively participate in class. Your **preparation** will include careful reading of the assigned texts, thinking through the reading questions, and completing all required assignments. **Active participation** means that you will actively engage in discussions during lectures and in group activities. All participants are expected to be respectful and courteous during discussions.

Please wear masks! We are in a relatively small lecture hall, considering the size of our class. Therefore, I ask you all to wear a mask when entering the room and during class. If the pandemic situation clears up, the professor may lift this restriction at her discretion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please **turn off** all **cell phones** before class begins and do **not** use **electronic devices** (laptops, phones, etc.) to access the internet during class, only to take notes if necessary. Please bring your textbook to class and, if applicable, physical copies of the reading, including printed PDFs.

Be sure to **plan your time and workload wisely** throughout the semester and that you submit all assignments on time. Late submissions will be penalized with a point deduction. Remember that the readings and assignments are intended as a springboard for your own independent and hopefully rewarding exploration of the topic.

This class follows Notre Dame's binding *Honor Code* (<http://honorcode.nd.edu/the-honor-code/>). All work submitted must be your own. Your sources must be properly cited. Direct quotations from others must be enclosed in quotation marks. If you have questions about citing your sources, contact the instructor. Any instance of academic dishonesty will be subject to penalty and, in serious cases, may result in failure of the entire course or expulsion from the university.

SCHEDULE

Note that this is a tentative schedule that is subject to alteration at the professor's discretion!

MP = *Modern Philosophy*, 3rd edition, edited by R. Ariew and E. Watkins

WEEK 1

- Aug. 24, 2021 General Introduction: Are We Moderns?
 • Susan Neiman, "An Enlightenment for Grownups" [Copy]
 • Jacob Soll, "The Culture of Criticism" [Copy]
- Aug. 26, 2021 A New Method of Philosophical Enquiry
 • Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, Parts 1, 2 [MP: 25-31, until four rules]
 • Descartes, *Meditations*, Preface + I [MP: 37-38, 40-43]

PART I *RATIONALISM*

WEEK 2

- Aug. 31, 2021 Descartes' New Foundation
 Descartes, *Meditations*, Synopsis + II [MP: 39-40, 43-47]
 * **Skill Session: Reading Texts in Modern Philosophy** *
- Sept. 2, 2021 Descartes: God, Error, and Freedom
 • Descartes, *Meditations III + IV* [MP: 47-58]

* **FIRST WRITING EXERCISE due on Mon., Sept. 6, 6:00 pm** *

WEEK 3

- Sept. 7, 2021 Descartes: Proof of God
 • Descartes, *Meditation V* [MP: 58-61]
 • *Objections and Replies* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
 * **Skill Session: Philosophical Arguments** *
- Sept. 9, 2021 Descartes's Dualism: Mind & Body
 • Descartes, *Meditation VI* [MP: 61-68]
 • Elisabeth and Descartes, *Correspondence* [MP: 93-95]

WEEK 4

- Sept. 14, 2021 Cavendish's Materialism
 • Margaret Cavendish, *Philosophical Letters* 30-35 [MP: 143-148]
 • Margaret Cavendish, *Observations upon Experimental Philosophy* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
- Sept. 16, 2021 Spinoza's Monism: God & Nature

- Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part I (Propositions 1-15, except the last long Scholium); Appendix to Part I [MP: 172-177]

WEEK 5

- Sept. 21, 2021 Spinoza: Mind & Body, and the Threat of Spinozism
- Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part II (Definitions; Propositions 1-2; 10-11; 14-16); Part V (Propositions 25-27; 34-38) [MP: 192-193; 196-197; 200; 217; 219-221]
- Sept. 23, 2021 Leibniz's Idealism: Saving the Individual
- Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*, §§1; 6-14; 30; 33-34 [MP: 252-253; 255-261; 270-271; 272-273]
 - * Skill Session: Writing A History-of-Philosophy Paper I *

* SECOND WRITING EXERCISE due on Mon., Sept. 27, 6:00 pm *

WEEK 6

- Sept. 28, 2021 Leibniz: Mind & Body, and the Pre-Established Harmony
- Leibniz, *Monadology*, esp. §§1-19; 29-39; 62-66; 74-82 [MP: 303-305; 306; 309; 310]
- Sept. 30, 2021 Leibniz: The Problem of Evil
- Leibniz, *Essays of Theodicy* [SAKAI]

WEEK 7

- Oct. 5, 2021 Wrap-Up Session: Rationalism
- Oct. 7, 2021 * FIRST WRITTEN EXAM on RATIONALISM *

PART II EMPIRICISM

WEEK 8

- Oct. 12, 2021 Locke's Empiricism: Sensation, Reflection, and Ideas
- Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. I, Ch. 2; Bk. II, Ch. 1 [MP: 348-358]
 - **Optional:** Leibniz, *New Essays on Human Understanding*, Preface [MP: 463-474]
- Oct. 14, 2021 Locke's Realism: Primary and Secondary Qualities
- Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Bk. II, Chs. 8; 12; 23 [MP: 362-367; 370-372; 389-397]
 - **Optional:** Berkeley, *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, Part I.1-5; 16-26 [MP: 487-488; 490-492]

SPRING BREAK Oct. 19-21, 2021

WEEK 9

- Oct. 26, 2021 Locke: Personhood, Morality, and Property
- Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, II.27 [MP: 397-407]
 - Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, II.2; 5 (Excerpts) [SAKAI]

- Oct. 28, 2021 Hume's Skepticism: Causation I
- Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Ch. 4 [MP: 588-594]
 - **Optional:** Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, Book I.iv.6 [MP: 571-578]

*** THIRD WRITING EXERCISE due on Fri., Oct. 29, 6:00 pm ***

WEEK 10

- Nov. 2, 2021 Hume's Empiricism: Causation II
- Hume, *Enquiry*, Chs. 5, 7 [MP: 594-601, 602-610]
- Nov. 4, 2021 Hume: Freedom and Determinism
- Hume, *Enquiry*, Ch. 8 [MP: 610-621]

WEEK 11

- Nov. 9, 2021 Hume's Ethics: Empathy and Moral Sentiments
- Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, Books II.3 and III.1-2 [SAKAI]

*** FOURTH WRITING EXERCISE due on Mon., Nov. 8, 6:00 pm ***

- Nov. 11, 2021 Wrap-Up Session: Empiricism
- **Skill Session: Writing A History-of-Philosophy Paper II ***

WEEK 12

- Nov. 16, 2021 *** SECOND WRITTEN EXAM on EMPIRICISM ***

PART III TRANSCENDENTAL PHILOSOPHY

- Nov. 18, 2021 Kant: The Problem of Metaphysics and the Critical Turn
- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Preface A & B [MP: 775-779 (first column)]
 - Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Introduction [MP: 782-787]

WEEK 13

- Nov. 23, 2021 Kant's Transcendental Philosophy: Space, Time, and Causation
- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Transcendental Aesthetic [MP: 787-791]
 - Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Second Analogy [MP: 830-837]

- Nov. 25, 2021 *No class: Thanksgiving*

WEEK 14

- Nov. 30, 2021 Kant's Ethics: The Moral Law and Human Freedom
- Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
 - **Optional:** Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Third Antinomy [MP: 856-858]

*** FIFTH OPTIONAL WRITING EXERCISE due on Fri., Dec. 3, 6:00 pm ***

PART IV PHILOSOPHY OF ENLIGHTENMENT

- Dec. 2, 2021 Philosophy of Enlightenment and its Critics
- **Group Activity ***
 - Rousseau, *First Discourse* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
 - Adorno/Horkheimer, *The Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]

- Foucault, *The Order of Things* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
- MacIntyre, *After Virtue* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]
- McCarthy, *Race, Empire, and the Idea of Development* (Excerpt) [SAKAI]

WEEK 15

Dec. 7, 2021 Final Discussion: Enlightenment Today?
* **Student Presentations** *

***** TERM PAPER is due on Monday, December 13, 10:30 am. *****

REQUIREMENTS:

- **4 Writing Exercises** (about 500 words each): (6 % each) **24 %**
- **2 Written Exams** (after each of the two major units): (20 % each) **40%**
- **1 Term Paper** (about 2,500 words) (on a question from a list provided): **36%**

ASSIGNMENTS:

ASSIGNMENT 1: WRITING EXERCISES (6 p each, in total: 24 p)

For each of our major philosophers, you will be expected to write a short response to a given question related to the readings, which will be posted approximately one week before the assignment is due. Your response should be approximately **500 words** and should be uploaded to SAKAI by **6:00 pm** on the due date. These writing exercises are designed to foster your understanding of the arguments and theories and prepare you for the final paper. They should be submitted as a Word document (*Times New Roman, 12 pt., file name: YourLastName_WritingExercise_No.doc(x)*) using the assignment feature of SAKAI. Each writing exercises will be graded on a scale of 0 to 6 p. Writing exercises are due on **September 6 (Mon.), September 27 (Mon.), October 29 (Fri.), November 8 (Mon.),** and optionally **December 3 (Fri.)!**

READINGS: In addition to these writing exercises, I will provide **guiding questions** for each week's readings and encourage you to **post your questions** about the readings before class on the blog of our SAKAI course homepage.

ASSIGNMENT 2: WRITTEN EXAMS (20 p each, in total: 40 p)

After each of the two main units – the unit on rationalism and the unit on empiricism – you will be expected to review the material and take a written exam. The exam will include knowledge questions on key concepts and theories, analysis and evaluation of arguments, and short discussion questions. More information will be announced in due course. The exam dates are **October 7 and November 16.**

ASSIGNMENT 3: TERM PAPER (36 p)

At the end of the course, you will be expected to write a term paper of **approximately 2,500 words** answering a question from a given list. The paper should be uploaded to SAKAI (via the assignment feature) by **10:30 am on Monday, December 13.** You will have the opportunity to receive feedback (ungraded) on a first draft (or outline) of your paper. If you wish to do so, you

will be asked to submit a draft (or outline) by Monday, November 29. Additional office hours will be offered.

The goal of the paper is to discuss a philosophical question based on the texts and theories you have learned about in the course. Your discussion should include **(1) an analysis** of key concepts and arguments, and **(2) a critical assessment** of the adequacy, effectiveness, and applicability of the arguments and the position under consideration, and **(3) the defense of a thesis** you choose for the purpose of this assignment by making effective arguments for that thesis and refuting relevant arguments against it. The paper should be submitted as a Word document (*Times New Roman, 12 pt., file name: YourLastName_TermPaper.doc(x)*) via SAKAI.

***** Timely completion of all assignments is highly important! Late submissions will be penalized with a deduction of one percentage point per day (24 hours). *****

GRADING:

In this class, you will be able to collect a total amount of **100 points**. The following scheme will be applied to determine your final grade:

Total Amount of Points (p)	Letter Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
< 60	F

LITERATURE:

Required:

- Textbook: *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources [MP]*, eds. R. Ariew and E. Watkins (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, **2019**), **3rd edition (!)**
- Additional material, including lecture slides, will be made available on **SAKAI**.

Recommended:

- Great online source for early modern texts: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com> [Note: Jonathan Bennett's translations into English are highly idiomatic!]
- The **Cambridge Companions** to Rationalism, Empiricism, and to single philosophers, or even to single works, are a good starting point to delving into secondary literature.
- **Stanford Encyclopedia** contains introductory entries on topics from modern philosophy and offers guidance for finding secondary literature (<https://plato.stanford.edu>).