

History of Philosophy II

Professor John Morrison
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Location 323 Milbank
Time Tu & Th, 2:40-3:55pm
Office 326a Milbank
Office Hour Th, 12-1

Course Description

This is an introduction to philosophy through the examination of major figures and ideas in the history of philosophy from the 13th through the 18th century in western Europe. We will analyze, dissect, and discuss the works of major philosophers with special focus on their views about the nature of reality, the relationship between mind and body, the difference between perception and thought, the nature of God and the extent of our knowledge.

Recitations

There will be recitations on Mondays from 6-7pm and Fridays from 12pm-1pm. You will be assigned to one of these recitations.

Course Goals

Learn what philosophy is by analyzing what it has been; Develop critical and analytical reading and writing skills; Explore fundamental philosophical questions; Stretch our philosophical imaginations; Delight ourselves with the sometimes bizarre and always fascinating ideas of brilliant thinkers in our period.

Readings

All readings will be posted on CourseWorks. You are encouraged to purchase the books of authors you particularly like. I'll be happy to tell which translation and edition is best.

Assignments

Four one-page, single-spaced papers (40%), one five-page, double-spaced papers (30%), comprehensive final examination (30%).

All assignments must be e-mailed to your TA by noon on the indicated day. If an assignment is late your grade will automatically be lowered by one level of distinction. It will be lowered another level of distinction for every day it is late.

Learning Disabilities

People with learning disabilities should self-identify as soon as possible so that we can make accommodations.

January 18	T	Introduction	
January 20	H	Aquinas: Causation	Principles of Nature
January 25	T	Aquinas: Being and Essence	On Being and Essence
January 27	H	Aquinas: God	The Five Ways
February 1	T	Aquinas: Mind and Body	Summa Theologiae 1a:75 art. 1, 4-6
February 3	H	Aquinas: Perception and Thought	Summa Theologiae 1a:78
			Summa Theologiae 1a:85 art. 6
February 8	T	Ockham: Perception and Thought	First Quodlibet, Question 15
			Fifth Quodlibet, Questions 5, 6
			Sixth Quodlibet, Question 6
February 10	H	Ockham: Being and Essence	Fifth Quodlibet, Question 14
			Summa Totius Logicae I, c.38
			Summa Totius Logicae III, II, c.27
February 13		1-page paper due	
February 15	T	Ockham: God and Causation	First Quodlibet, Question 1
			Second Quodlibet, Question 1
			Third Quodlibet, Question 4
			Fourth Quodlibet, Question 2
February 17	H	Ockham: Mind and Body	First Quodlibet, Questions 10-12
February 20		1-page paper due	
February 22	T	Kepler: Body, Being and Essence	The Harmonies of the World
February 24	H	Descartes: Perception and Thought	Meditations, 1-2
March 1	T	Descartes: God and Essence	Meditations, 3
March 3	H	Descartes: God and Thought	Meditations, 4-5
March 8	T	Descartes: Mind and Body	Meditations, 6
March 10	H	Elizabeth: Mind and Body	Correspondence with Descartes
March 13		1-page paper due	
March 15	T	Spring Break	
March 17	H	Spring Break	
March 22	T	Spinoza: God, Being, Explanation	Ethics, Part 1, Axioms and Definitions
			Ethics, Part 1, Propositions 1-11
March 24	H	Spinoza: God, Mind, Body, Causation	Ethics, Part 1, Propositions 12-18, 24-36
March 29	T	Spinoza: Mind and Body	Ethics, Part 2, Propositions 1-7, 9-15
			Ethics, Part 3, Propositions 1-3
March 31	H	Spinoza: Perception and Thought	Ethics, Part 2, Propositions 16-49
April 3		1-page paper due	
April 5	T	Hume: Perception, Thought and Being	Enquiry, sections 1-3
April 7	H	Hume: Causation and Explanation	Enquiry, sections 4-8
April 12	T	Hume: God, Thought, Mind	Enquiry, sections 9-12
April 14	H	Conway: God, Being, Causation, etc.	Principles
April 19	T	Conway: God, Being, Causation, etc.	Principles (reread)
April 21	H	Kant: Thought and Causation	Prolegomena, Preface and Preamble
April 26	T	Kant: Mind and Body	Prolegomena, Part One
			Prolegomena, Part Two, 14-23, 27-33, 36
			Prolegomena, Part Three
April 28	H	Kant: God, Being and Essence	
May 2		5-page paper due	
May 10	T	Final Exam	