

## **Phil 93: The Rationalists**

Tue. and Thurs., 2-3:45pm.

Professor: Abe Stone

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Office hours: Mon. 2–3pm, Thurs. 10–11am, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Andrew Delunas

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sections: Wed. 9:30–10:40am (Oakes 106); Wed. 7–8:10pm (Cowell 134).

Ben Roome

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sections: Mon. 5–6:10pm (Porter 249); Tues. 6–7:10pm (Oakes 102).

## **Course Requirements**

Participation in discussion sections. “Metaphysics exercises,” due in class most days. (Due Thur., Jan. 12; Tues., Jan. 17; Thur., Jan. 19; Tues., Jan. 24; Tues., Jan. 31; Thurs., Feb. 2; Thurs., Feb. 9; Tues., Feb. 14; Thurs., Feb. 16; Tues., Feb. 21; Thurs., Feb. 23; Tues., Feb. 28; Thurs., Mar. 2; Tues., Mar. 7; Tues., Mar. 14.) One short paper (2–3 pages), due in class, Tue., Feb. 7, and one long paper (4–6 pages), due Tue., Mar. 21, in my office, by 5pm. Please also e-mail me copies of your papers (in whatever format you find convenient).

## **Texts**

Descartes, *Selected Philosophical Writings*, tr. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff and D. Murdoch (Cambridge).

Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, ed. R. Ariew and D. Garber (Hackett).

Spinoza, *The Ethics, Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect, and Selected Letters*, tr. S. Shirley, ed. S. Feldman (Hackett).

The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine. Readings not on the above list will be made available as photocopies and/or on e-reserve.

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<sup>1</sup>Please feel free to contact the instructor and/or your TA with questions about the substance of the course (philosophical issues, questions about the meaning of the texts, questions about paper topics, etc.). On administrative issues (grades, lateness/extensions, due dates, section times, etc.) please try your TA first.

## Readings

Thur., Jan. 5: (no reading, first class).

### I. Background: Aristotelian Metaphysics

Tue., Jan. 10: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Thur., Jan. 12: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). ME #1 due.

Tue., Jan. 17: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, and John Philoponus (on substance and accident). ME #2 due.

Thur., Jan. 19: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident). ME #3 due.

### II. Descartes

Tue., Jan. 24: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1–3 (pp. 20–35), part 6, first paragraph (p. 46); *Principles of Philosophy* I.1–3 (p. 160), IV.207 (p. 212). ME #4 due.

Thur., Jan. 26: *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9). No ME due.

Tue., Jan. 31: beginning of *Second Meditation* (pp. 80–83, through the paragraph ending “in this restricted sense of the term it is simply thinking”); *Principles of Philosophy* I.9 (p. 162), .20 (p. 166). ME #5 due.

Thur., Feb. 2: remainder of *Second Meditation* (pp. 83–6); *Principles of Philosophy* I.8 (p. 162), .11 (p. 163), .45–8 (pp. 175–6), .51–4 (pp. 177–8), .63 (p. 182), .66 (p. 183), II.4 (pp. 190–91). ME #6 due.

Tue., Feb. 7: *Third* and *Fifth Meditations* (pp. 86–98; 105–110) and **first paper due**. No ME due.

Thur., Feb. 9: *Fourth Meditation* (pp. 98–105); *Principles of Philosophy* I.6 (p. 161); *Objections and Replies*, selection entitled “[The indifference of the will]” (pp. 134–5). ME #7 due. (Note: ME #7 is slightly longer and includes questions covering the previous two readings.)

Tue., Feb. 14: *Sixth Meditation* (pp. 110–22); *Passions of the Soul* I.17–18 (p. 225), .25 (pp. 227–8); .30–35 (pp. 229–32); .39–41 (p. 233); .49–50 (pp. 237–8). ME #8 due.

### III. Spinoza

Thur., Feb. 16: Spinoza, *Ethics*, I, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 15 (pp. 31–43). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, ch. 7, tr. Elwes, pp. 98–top of 101 (ending “which occur in the Bible”). (Readings from this text are available on e-reserve.) ME #9 due.

Tue., Feb. 21: *Ethics*, I, Prop. 16 through end (pp. 43–62). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 101–4 (ending “its meaning concerning them”). ME #10 due.

Thur., Feb. 23: *Ethics*, II, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 18 (pp. 63–79). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, paragraph beginning at the bottom of p. 106 (“We have thus shown . . .”) and ending on p. 107 (“...about the former”); top of p. 114 (beginning “There only remains”)–top of p. 117 (ending “the learned fare alike”). ME #11 due.

Tue., Feb. 28: Spinoza, *Ethics*, II, Prop. 19 to end (pp. 80–101). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 117–119. ME #12 due.

Thur., Mar. 2: Spinoza *Ethics*, III, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 11 (pp. 102–111); V, Preface (pp. 201–3), Prop. 14 to end (pp. 210–23). ME #13 due.

### IV. Leibniz

Tue., Mar. 7: Leibniz, “A New System of Nature,” first three paragraphs (pp. 138–9); from letters to Clarke: 2.12 (p. 324), 3.17 (p. 327), 4.42 (p. 331), 5.107–11 (pp. 343–4), along with Clarke’s replies to each;<sup>2</sup> “A Specimen of Dynamics,” first two paragraphs (pp. 118–19); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” §§8–12, 24, 26–8, 33 (pp. 40–44, 56–7, 58–60, 64–5). ME #14 due.

Thur., Mar. 9: “A New System of Nature,” remaining part (pp. 139–45); “Monadology,” §§1–61 (pp. 213–21). No ME due.

Tue., Mar. 14: selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels); Leibniz, from letters to

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<sup>2</sup>Clarke’s replies are not in your book; they will be made available on e-reserve and/or as a handout.

de Volder, last two paragraphs of B, first paragraph of C, and first paragraph of D (pp. 178–9, 181–2); “Monadology,” §§62–81 (pp. 221–3). ME #15 due.

Thur., Mar. 16: “Dialogue on Human Freedom,” pp. 111–17; letter to Coste (pp. 193–6); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” §§13–16, 19–20, 30–32, 35–7 (pp. 44–9, 52–3, 60–64, 66–8); “Monadology,” §§82–end (pp. 223–5). No ME due.

Tue., Mar. 21: **second paper due.**

