

Phil 93: The Rationalists

Winter 2007

Tue. and Thurs., 8-9:45am.

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

Teaching Assistants:

Andrew Delunas (adelunas@ucsc.edu)

sections: Wed. 8:00am (Soc Sci 2 165); Fri. 11:00am (Soc Sci 2 167).

Ben Roome (broome@ucsc.edu)

sections: Mon. 7:00pm (Soc Sci 2 165); Tues. 7:30pm (Soc Sci 2 159).

Course Requirements

Participation in discussion sections (approximately 10% of grade). “Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a take-home quiz), due in class most days (all exercises together, approximately 35%; graded heavily on a curve). (Exercises due Thurs., Jan. 11, Tues., Jan. 16 Thurs., Jan. 18, Tues., Jan. 23, Tues., Jan. 30, Thurs., Feb. 1; Thurs., Feb. 8; Tues., Feb. 13; Thurs., Feb. 15; Tues., Feb. 20; Thurs., Feb. 22; Tues., Feb. 27; Thurs., Mar. 1; Tues., Mar. 6; and Tues., Mar. 13.) One short paper (2–3 pages), due in class, Tue., Feb. 6 (approximately 20%), and one longer paper (4–6 pages), due Tue., Mar. 20, in my office, by 5pm (approximately 35%). 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).

¹Please 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.

The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine. Readings not from texts on the above list are available on e-reserve.

Readings

Thur., Jan. 4: (no reading, first class).

I. Background: Aristotelian Metaphysics

Tue., Jan. 9: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Thur., Jan. 11: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). ME #1 due.

Tue., Jan. 16: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, and John Philoponus (on substance and accident). ME #2 due.

Thur., Jan. 18: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident). ME #3 due.

II. Descartes

Tue., Jan. 23: 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. 25: *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9). No ME due.

Tue., Jan. 30: 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. 1: 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. 6: *Third* and *Fifth Meditations* (pp. 86–98; 105–110) and **first paper due**. No ME due.

Thur., Feb. 8: *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. 13: *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. 15: 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. 20: *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. 22: *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. 27: Spinoza, *Ethics*, II, Prop. 19 to end (pp. 80–101). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 117–119. ME #12 due.

Thur., Mar. 1: Spinoza *Ethics*, III, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 11 (pp. 102–111) and Prop. 53 (p. 136); IV, Definitions (pp. 155–6); V, Preface (pp. 201–3), Prop. 4 (p. 206) and Prop. 14 to end (pp. 210–23). ME #13 due.

IV. Leibniz

Tue., Mar. 6: Leibniz, “A New System of Nature,” first three paragraphs (pp. 138–9); from letters to Clarke: (1.4?), 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;² “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. 8: “A New System of Nature,” remaining part (pp. 139–45); “Monadology,” §§1–61 (pp. 213–21). No ME due.

²Clarke’s replies are not in your book; they are available on e-reserve.

Tue., Mar. 13: selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels); Leibniz, from letters to 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. 15: “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. 20: **second paper due.**

Timeline

Timeline of various stuff more or less relevant to this course:

