

Phil 93: The Rationalists

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

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu¹)

Office: Cowell Annex A-106

Phone (office): 459-5723

AIM: abestone3

Website: <http://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses>

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).

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

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.

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.

Tue., Mar. 13: selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels); Leibniz, from letters to

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

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:

399 B.C. Death of Socrates	–	
322 B.C. Death of Aristotle	●	347 B.C. Death of Plato
197 B.C. <i>Roman conquest of Greece</i>	–	
1 <i>Birth of Jesus (approx.)</i>	–	
305 Death of Porphyry (approx.)	●	270 Death of Plotinus
410 <i>Sack of Rome by the Visigoths</i>	–	312 <i>Conversion of Constantine to Christianity</i>
529 <i>Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens</i>	–	6th c. John Philoponus
622 <i>Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina</i>	–	
8th–9th c. <i>Aristotle translated into Arabic</i>		
		● 1037 Death of Avicenna
11th–13th c. <i>Aristotle translated into Latin</i>		
1204–1261 <i>Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople</i>	●	1274 Death of St. Thomas Aquinas
1347–1351 <i>The Black Death</i>		
1453 <i>Fall of Constantinople to Turks</i>	–	
1517 <i>Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”</i>	–	
1632 <i>Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems</i>	–	● 1641 <i>Publ. of D.’s Meditations</i>
1677 <i>Publ. of Spinoza’s Ethics</i>	●	● 1714 Leibniz composes “Monadology”
1781 <i>Publ. of Critique of Pure Reason (1st ed.)</i>	–	– 1789 <i>French Revolution</i>
2006 <i>Now</i>	–	