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).


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.


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.


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.


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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.


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
197 B.C.  Roman conquest of Greece
1  Birth of Jesus (approx.)

305  Death of Porphyry (approx.)
410  Sack of Rome by the Visigoths

529  Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens
622  Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina

8th–9th c.  Aristotle translated into Arabic

11th–13th c.  Aristotle translated into Latin
1204–1261  Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople
1347–1351  The Black Death
1453  Fall of Constantinople to Turks
1517  Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”

1632  Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems
1677  Publ. of Spinoza’s Ethics
1781  Publ. of Critique of Pure Reason (1st ed.)

2006  Now

1 347 B.C.  Death of Plato
5 270  Death of Plotinus
10 312  Conversion of Constantine to Christianity

6th c.  John Philoponus

1037  Death of Avicenna

1274  Death of St. Thomas Aquinas

1641  Publ. of D.’s Meditations

1714  Leibniz composes “Monadology”

1789  French Revolution