

Undergraduate History of Modern Philosophy Course

course number here

John M. DePoe, course instructor
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<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Exam #1: 30%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exam #2: 30%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exam #3: 30%													
Participation: 10%													

Required Texts

René Descartes, *Meditations*

Baruch Spinoza, *Theologico-Political Treatise*

John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

George Berkeley, *Principles Concerning Human Understanding and Three Dialogues*

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

Recommended Text

Steven Nadler, ed., *A Companion to Early Modern Philosophy* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002).

Course Description

This course will survey some of the most important philosophical texts in the modern era of the Western tradition of philosophy with an emphasis on the development of metaphysics and epistemology of during this era. The writings of philosophers such as Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, and Hume will be studied and critically assessed through the progress of the course.

Exams

Students will be given three take-home, essay exams. More details about the nature and expectations of these exams will be given in class. Each exam is worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

Attendance & Participation

Given the difficult nature of many of the readings and topics covered in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. Students will receive 10% of their overall grade based on their attendance and participation in the course.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet two basic requirements: (1) they must take all of the exams; and (2) they must attend three-fourths of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions are subject to fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Reading Schedule

Week 1: Descartes

Descartes, *Meditations 1-2 & Selected Objections and Replies*

Week 2: Descartes

Descartes, *Meditation 3 & Selected Objections and Replies*

Week 3: Descartes

Descartes, *Meditations 4-5 & Selected Objections and Replies*

Week 4: Descartes

Descartes, *Meditation 6 & Selected Objections and Replies*
Exam #1

Week 5: Spinoza

Spinoza, *A Theologico-Political Treatise*

Week 6: Spinoza

Spinoza, *A Theologico-Political Treatise*

Week 7: Locke

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Week 8: Locke

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Week 9: Locke

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
Exam #2

Week 10: Berkeley

Berkeley, *Principles Concerning Human Knowledge*

Week 11: Berkeley

Berkeley, *Principles Concerning Human Knowledge*
Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, dialogue 1

Week 12: Berkeley

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, dialogues 2-3

Week 13: Hume

Hume, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Week 14: Hume/Kant

Hume, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

Week 15: Kant

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*
Exam #3