

Eighteenth Century Philosophy

PHIL 304, Syllabus (v4)

Course Info

Instructor: Richard Fry, rfry@siue.edu

Meeting Time: M/W, 4:30-5:45P, Peck Hall 0302

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM, Peck Hall 3210 and by appointment

Course Description:

The 18th century constitutes the culmination of the Early Modern philosophical project for Western philosophy. It sees thinkers capitalizing on and undermining the fundamental insights that began to surface in the 1600's. In this course we will look at key philosophical texts from the period, examining problems they raise and the solutions they offer related to what we know, how we think, and how those two questions are related. (We will not be examining ethical questions, that is, questions about how we should act.) This course is reading-intensive and emphasizes philosophical writing, so you will be expected to write regularly and well. For the final paper, you will produce an original interpretive or philosophical paper about one of the authors and issues we have discussed.

Required Texts:

Berkeley, *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, (Principles), ed. Winkler

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, ed. Adams

Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, (Treatise) ed. Norton & Norton

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, (EHU) ed. Steinberg

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, ed. Hatfield

Other readings will be posted to Blackboard throughout the semester.

Policies

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism: You are expected and required to uphold SIUE's standards of academic honesty in this course. Plagiarism of ideas or words is unacceptable. In effort to uphold this university's high standards, confirmed academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course. Familiarize yourself with what counts as plagiarism and SIUE's policies: <http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/services/instruction/plagiarism.shtml>, <http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>

Preparedness and Attendance: You are responsible for being prepared for class and comporting yourself in an appropriate manner. This includes reading *and bringing* the assigned material, thinking about it so that you can ask questions, arriving on time, and participating actively—both asking and answering questions—in discussion.

A Safe and Productive Environment: *You are responsible for helping to foster a safe and productive learning environment.* Be mindful of how the topics under discussion may differently impact members of the class and treat your classmates with respect and courtesy.

Readings and Laptops: You are expected to bring the assigned reading to each class meeting. Laptops/tablets will only be permitted when readings are distributed electronically.

Due Dates: You are responsible for turning in your work on time. For normal written work, each 24 hours or portion thereof that a piece of written work is late will result in a deduction of 3.33%. For reading engagement argument summaries, late work will not be accepted.

Extensions: If you need an extension for written work, email me *as soon as possible* with a brief description of your situation and—if I approve an extension—we will work out an appropriate timeframe. Extensions must be requested at least 24 hours before the assignment is due.

Completion of Assignments: All of the work assigned for this course is essential. If any assignments are not complete before the end of course, *you will receive a failing grade for the course.*

Grades and Grading: The papers for this course will be graded anonymously. Please submit this work through Blackboard *without* your name. Failure to do so will result in a penalty to your grade.

If you believe the work you submitted deserves a different grade than it received, you may ask *in writing* for reconsideration. Your request must be submitted *within one week*, but no sooner than *two days after* the assignment is returned. Your written request *must explain why* you believe the work deserves a different grade. Please note that *if* a change is made, the new grade may be either higher or lower.

Changes: I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced in class and a new version of the syllabus posted to Blackboard.

Assignments and Assessment

Reading Engagement (20%)

Starting January 25th, every Monday you will be responsible for turning in a 200-300 word summary of a *single* argument from the texts assigned for that class meeting. It will be up to you to determine which argument to summarize and how to best capture it in the space allowed.

Short Writings (30%)

You will have two short (1200-1500 word) writing assignments. These will help give you the skills needed for the final paper by developing your ability to interpret and engage with texts. Whichever of these two is better will count for 20% of your final grade, the other for 10%.

Outline for Final Paper (10%)

Several weeks before the final paper is due, you will submit an outline of your final paper to me for approval and comments. This outline will substantively illustrate the main points you will make in the final paper and serve as a template for completing it.

Final paper (30%)

At the end of the semester, you'll write an 10-12 page paper that considers a substantive interpretive or philosophical problem related to the texts we've discussed in the course. This paper will be due during the time scheduled for the final exam.

Participation/Comportment (10%)

10% of your final grade will be determined by participation. Participation should be understood broadly: be involved and attentive in class. You can get your participation points by making comments or asking questions in class, coming to office hours, or emailing me. You'll lose points for looking at your phone, sleeping, failing to bring assigned readings, arriving consistently late, etc. Further, note that it is very hard to participate in class when you are not in attendance.

Extra Credit

I will post a list of Department of Philosophy events to Blackboard. You may attend up to three of these talks and write up a 100-200 word summary of an argument the speaker made. If your argument summary is acceptable, you will receive +1% to your final grade, up to a total of +3%. Paragraphs should be turned in within a week of the event.

Details about each of these assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Calendar

Date	Figure	Content	Reading	Assn
11 Jan	—	Intro. to Philosophy	Scruton: Philosophy	
13	—	Introduction to Modern	Scruton: Modern, Descartes, Leibniz, Locke	
20	Berkeley	Matter Inconceivable	<i>Three Dialogues...</i> I (p.7-30)	
25			<i>Three Dialogues...</i> I (30-42)	
27		Matter Explanatorily Inert	<i>Three Dialogues...</i> II (all)	
01 Feb		Idealism Everyday	<i>Three Dialogues...</i> III (61-68)	
03			<i>Three Dialogues...</i> III (69-94)	
08		Hume	Science of Humankind	<i>Treatise</i> Intro, <i>Enquiry</i> 2
10	Worries concerning Reason		EHU 3.1-3.3, EHU 4ptI	
15			EHU 4ptII	
17	Resolution of these Worries		T 1.3.6, EHU 5ptI	
22			EHU 5ptII, T 1.3.7-8	
24	Necessity		T 1.3.14-15, EHU 7	
29	Animals		EHU 9, T 1.3.16	
02 Mar	Miracles		EHU 10	
14	Skepticism		T 1.4.1, EHU 12	
16	Identity		T 1.4.2, T 1.4.6	
21	La Mettrie		Humans and Animals Mechanical	<i>Man/Machine</i> (p.1-17)
23		<i>Man/Machine</i> (17-34)		SW2
28	Kant	Sensation, Understanding, Categories	<i>Prolegomena</i> Preface, Preamble, I (through 286)	
30			<i>Prolegomena</i> I (all)	
04 Apr		Transcendental Idealism	<i>Prolegomena</i> II (through 314)	
06			<i>Prolegomena</i> II (all)	
11		Freedom, Soul	<i>Prolegomena</i> III (all)	
13		Critique of Metaphysics	<i>Prolegomena</i> III & Conclusion (all)	Out.
18	Astell	Women & Equality	<i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i> (p.51-73)	
20			<i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i> (73-83)	
25	—	Final Papers	—	
27	—	Wrap-up	—	

Resources

Philosophical Resources

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu>

Philpapers.org: <http://philpapers.org>

Tips on Writing a Philosophy Paper: <http://goo.gl/iDzgFb>

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Academic Resources

Disability Support Services: Student Success Center, Room 1270

<http://www.siu.edu/dss/> and disabilitysupport@siue.edu

Provides accommodations to disabled students. DSS also has services which students can use to increase skills in learning, time management, and test-taking.

Instructional Services:

<http://www.siu.edu/is/>

Provides instructional support unit for the students, faculty and staff. Helps the underprepared to prepare, the prepared to advance, and the advanced to excel.

Writing Center: in the Academic Advancement Center

<http://www.siu.edu/is/writing/>, 618-650-2045

The writing center assists you as you analyze your paper and explore ways to improve it. Our primary concern is to help you become a better writer. To do this, we challenge you to learn more about composition and the conventions of Standard English.

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Health and Wellness Resources

Counseling Services: Student Success Center room 0222

<http://www.siu.edu/counseling/>

Provides individual counseling, counseling groups, healthy living workshops, consultations, and referrals. Special attention is paid to the ongoing issues affecting college students.

Student Health Clinic Services: Student Success Center room 0222

<http://www.siu.edu/healthservice/clinic/index.shtml>

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