

PHHS 2000 MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Anselm Ramelow, O.P.
Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology
Fall 2019
M 9:40am-12:30pm
DSPT room 1
3 units

Office Hours:

After class or by appointment
I can be reached under (415) 567 7824 (St. Dominic's Parish, ask for Fr. Anselm)
or aramelow@dspt.edu

Course description:

The course will provide an overview over the development of philosophical thought from Descartes and Bacon to Hegel and Schopenhauer. It will cover Continental Rationalism, British Empiricism, German Idealism and the responses to Kant. The format of the class is a lecture open to questions and discussion.

Intended audience: MDiv, MA/MTS, PhD/ThD.

As an **outcome**, the student will have gained an understanding of the development of philosophical thought in this epoch, and will be able to relate various thinkers and their positions on relevant topics through research and writing.

The student will demonstrate this knowledge through

a) a **mid-term** (take home) and **final exam** (take home, non-comprehensive)
= 40% of grade

b) a 15pp **research paper** (see below) = 50% of grade¹

This includes an evaluation of these DSPT [Institutional Goals](#):

A.1 **Integrative Thinking** (as explained in the paper guidelines)

A.2 **Intellectual Humility**:

Every academic work includes listening to the scholarly community; this is demonstrated in your research and the use of your sources (books and journal articles) in the research paper.

A.3 **Self-Direction**

Finding your own paper topic will demonstrate this ability.

B.1 **Collaborative dimension**

Integrating feedback on your paper proposal.

c) in addition, 10% of the grade will include an evaluation of the student in the following areas:

a. **Collaborative learning** (Institutional Goal B.1)²; based on

- i. class participation
- ii. the paper proposal you are submitting and integration of feedback
- iii. your contribution to the common good of the class:
 1. class preparation
 2. class participation

¹ Please refer to the attached **paper guidelines** and the [Research Readiness Paper Review Form](#).

² For some rubrics of evaluation for the [Institutional Goals](#), please refer to the DSPT website [here](#).

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance and participation will impact the grade. Missed deadlines will result in a penalty on the grade.

I would like you to forgo the use of laptops in the class sessions.

The **research paper** ideally will compare a philosopher to other thinkers on a particular topic. It will show the student's ability to do research. For this purpose, I ask you to give me a **paper proposal by Monday, 10/28.**

The **dead line for the paper is Monday 12/2.**

Out of fairness to other students who submit their work on time, missed deadlines will result in a lower grade. Further **guidelines** for the paper can be found at the end of the syllabus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required:

a) The Voyage of Discovery: The Modern Voyage

by William F. Lawhead

- Wadsworth publishing, 2nd edition, 2002
- paperback
- new on Amazon from \$33.00 (and many used good copies)
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0534561581

b) Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources

by Roger Ariew (Editor), Eric Watkins (Editor)

- Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, **2nd edition** (November 25, 2009)
- paperback, \$54.00 (and many good used copies)
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0872209787

*(for those, who happen to have the first edition: you can use that, too;
I can provide you with the page numbers*

**please do not buy the new, third edition;
it is quite different and useless for our purposes!**

c) A reader is available at

- **Vick Copy** (1879 Euclid, corner of Hearst and Euclid)
- **cost**, estimated (by Copy Shop): \$ 9.99 + tax

Additional bibliography:

You can supplement these readings with:

- Roger Scruton, *Short History of Modern Philosophy* (Routledge Classics); 3rd edition (November 9, 2001)
- Frederick Copleston, S.J., *History of Philosophy*, vol. IV-VII

or any other history of philosophy

It is also useful to look at **encyclopedia** articles

e.g. *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Paul Edwards
(New York: Macmillan [1967])

Helpful resources on the **internet**:

[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

[The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

Class Schedule

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|--|
| M 9/2 | Labor Day | | |
| M 9/9 | <u>Introduction</u> <u>Francis Bacon</u> | Read: Lawhead Ariew Reader p. 3-6 ³ | p. XIX-XXI and p. 201-216 p. 16-21 |
| | <u>Descartes</u> | Read: Lawhead Ariew | p. 226-233 p. 39-47 |
| M 9/16 | <u>Descartes</u> | Read: Lawhead Ariew | p. 233-242 p. 34-68 |
| M 9/23 | <u>Descartes</u> continued <u>Pascal</u> + Occasionalism as transition to Spinoza: (<u>A. Geulincx</u> and) <u>N. Malebranche</u> | Read: Ariew (Reader | p. 200-223 p. 7-9) |
| M 9/30 | <u>Spinoza</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 243 - 256 p. 144-196 (if you cannot manage it all, focus on the “proposition” and go deeper where appropriate) |
| | <u>Leibniz</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 257-271 p. 224-247 (<i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>) |
| M 10/7 | <u>Leibniz</u> | Ariew Ariew | p. 275-284 (<i>Monadology</i>) p. 294-303 (<i>letters to Clarke</i>) |
| M 10/14 | <u>Hobbes</u> | Lawhead Reader: | p. 217-225 p. 10-17 |
| | <u>Locke</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 279-294 p. 316-421 (skip 332-348, 387end-405) (esp. 369-376 on personal identity!) |
| | | [suggested: Ariew | 308-315 (Boyle) 21-25 (Galileo)] |
| | | | <i>(take home exam questions)</i> |
| M 10/21 | Reading Week , no class | | |

³ Benedict XVI., *Spe Salvi* nn. 16-23; for footnotes see [here](#).

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|----------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| M 10/28 | <i>take home exam and paper proposal due</i> <u>Berkeley</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 295-309 p. 438-453 |
| | <u>Hume</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 310-324 p. 538-593 |
| M 11/4 | <u>Rousseau and Enlightenment</u> | Lawhead Reader: | p. 272-278 p. 18-48 |
| M 11/11 | <u>Kant</u> | Lawhead Reader: Ariew | p. 325-339 (up to: "Ethics as Rational Discipline") overviews p. 49-53 p. 717-783 (up to "Transcendental Dialectic Introduction") |
| M 11/18 | <u>Kant</u> | Lawhead Ariew | p. 339-346 p. 783-835 |
| M 11/ 25 | <u>Fichte and Schelling</u> | Lawhead Reader: | p. 346-359 p. 54-66 |
| M 12/2 | <i>paper due</i> <u>Hegel</u> | Lawhead Reader: | p. 360-378 p. 67-85 |
| M 12/9 | <u>Hegel and Marx</u> if there is time: <u>Schopenhauer</u> <i>evaluations</i> | Lawhead Reader: | p. 379-398 p. 86-90 |
| | <u>final exam due at the end of this week</u> | | |

Paper Guidelines

The topic of your paper will ideally be a comparison of two philosophers on a given issue.

Examples (from Contemporary Philosophy) might be:

Anxiety in Kierkegaard and Heidegger.

Language in Wittgenstein and Gadamer.

Faith in Newman and Kierkegaard.

Time in Husserl and Augustine.

There are many possibilities. I do encourage you to use topics of your own interest or background. There are many graduate student conferences now; you might want to write a paper with an eye to presenting it in such a venue. An increasing number of students has done so successfully.

The topic is, however, subject to approval. You can talk to me before or after your proposal.

The paper is a **research paper (15 pages, 12pt, double space)**. Hence, I expect you to research and use *secondary literature*. This is to be documented in the use of *footnotes (not endnotes!)* and in a **bibliography**.

To avoid some common pitfalls: please **focus on your topic**. There is no need for biographical introductions on philosophers. (Biographical details can, of course, be brought in, if they explain some subject matter.)

Please avoid flowery or cryptic **language**. Be as sober as possible. Building literary smoke screens will not make your paper appear more profound, but only less intelligible. Focus on making arguments and positions clear.

Do some **proofreading**. If English is your second language, it can be a good idea to ask someone else to help you. Please do write complete sentences that have a grammatical structure. (Unfortunately that does not always seem to be self-understood.) Shorter sentences can make that easier. Grammatical correctness is more important than political correctness (e.g. do not use “they” as a singular).

Subdividing it into chapters (with headlines) can help the structure of your paper. It will help the clarity of your own thought process – as well as that of the reader. Please use *page numbers*.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade.

Proposal

The proposal is due the class after reading week. It consists in 2 or 3 sentences, stating your topic, plus a pertinent bibliography. (Please do not include the textbooks of the class.) This exercise is meant to help you to clarify your topic and focus your bibliography; after that, the paper should come easy. It is also a good exercise for a future thesis proposal. The topic is subject to approval.

The **bibliography** is most important. Please make your bibliography *as specific as possible*. I would like to see at least **three pertinent journal articles** in your bibliography; this is more important than generic books. As a help: please use the “[philosopher’s index](#)” at the [GTU library](#), although this might only provide you with a starting point. (Sometimes helpful also: the [Oxford Bibliographies](#).) Topics without pertinent literature are not viable; if it requires extensive research on primary texts, then you should leave it for your dissertation.