

## PHHS 2000 **MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

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Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology

Fall 2020

**Time:** M 9:40am-11:00pm and TH 9:40am-11:00pm

**Location:** online, by Zoom, or if possible: DSPT room 2

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 (better) [aramelow@dspt.edu](mailto: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.

### **Format**

The format of the class has a **synchronous** element, which is an interactive lecture, conducted over Zoom (100% of *class* time). The lecture will *not* be prerecorded so as to allow the instructor and the students to ask questions. While it is possible, upon request, to record the lecture for later use by the student, synchronous attendance is, nevertheless, mandatory. The class sessions have been divided into two sessions per week, to avoid Zoom fatigue. The **asynchronous** element consists in the assigned readings, your research for and writing of the paper (including the paper proposal), as well as a written final and midterm exam.

I will send out a group email at the beginning of the course that can serve for further asynchronous engagements at the initiative of the students: you may, at any time, raise a question by replying to the whole group and start a conversation (participation in this conversation, however, is *optional*).

Please notice that you need to be familiar with **Zoom**, and how to access it through **Moodle** (help can be found [here](#); you can also contact Moodle support at [moodle@gtu.edu](mailto:moodle@gtu.edu). Students will receive a response within 24 hours).

- To access Moodle, visit: [moodle.gtu.edu](http://moodle.gtu.edu) and log in using your school email address and password.
- In Moodle, the course will appear in your *Dashboard* under *Courses*. All course content including lectures, readings, activities, assignments, and discussions will be posted on our Moodle course page.
- Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are recommended to access Moodle. Safari is not recommended.
- Students can also use their smartphone to access Moodle. When accessing Moodle from a mobile device, students should use a browser instead of the mobile app.

### Technology Requirements

Students should have the following technology on hand in order to actively engage in the course and complete all course requirements:

- A computer, laptop, or tablet with an updated operating system (Windows, Mac, Linux) and an internet browser (Chrome or Firefox)
- A webcam
- A microphone

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 grade<sup>1</sup>

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)<sup>2</sup>; 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

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

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, 11/2.**

The **dead line for the paper is Monday 12/3.**

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.

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

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

**BIBLIOGRAPHY****Required:****a) The Voyage of Discovery: The Modern Voyage**

by William F. Lawhead

- Wadsworth publishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, **2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition;**

**it is quite different and useless for our purposes!**)

c) For this semester, due to COVID, a **reader** will be distributed electronically at the beginning of the semester.

**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 on the **internet**:

[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

[The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

**Class Schedule**

M 9/2	<b>Labor Day</b>	
TH 9/10	<u>Introduction</u> <u>Francis Bacon</u>	
	Read: Lawhead	p. XIX-XXI and p. 201-216
	Ariew	p. 16-21
	Reader	p. 3-6 <sup>3</sup>
M 9/14	<u>Bacon and Descartes</u>	
	Read: Lawhead	p. 226-233
	Ariew	p. 39-47
TH 9/17	<u>Descartes</u>	
	Read: Lawhead	p. 233-242
	Ariew	p. 34-68
M 9/21	<u>Descartes</u> continued	
TH 9/24	<u>Descartes</u> continued	
M 9/28	<u>Pascal, A. Geulincx, N. Malebranche</u>	
	Read: Ariew	p. 200-223
	(Reader	p. 7-9)
TH 10/1	<u>Spinoza</u>	
	Lawhead	p. 243 - 256
	Ariew	p. 144-196 (if you cannot manage it all, focus on the “proposition” and go deeper where appropriate)
M 10/5	<u>Spinoza continued/Leibniz</u>	
	Lawhead	p. 257-271
	Ariew	p. 224-247 ( <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> )
	Ariew	p. 275-284 ( <i>Monadology</i> )
	Ariew	p. 294-303 ( <i>letters to Clarke</i> )
TH 10/8	<u>Leibniz</u> continued	
M 10/12	<u>Leibniz</u> continued	
TH 10/15	<u>Hobbes</u>	
	Lawhead	p. 217-225
	Reader:	p. 10-17

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



- M 11/30      Fichte and Schelling  
                    Lawhead      p. 346-359  
                    Reader:      p. 54-66
- TH 12/3      Fichte and Schelling continued  
***paper due***  
***please submit as Word Document (not pdf!) by email***
- M 12/7      Hegel  
                    Lawhead      p. 360-378  
                    Reader:      p. 67-85
- TH 12/10     Hegel continued  
*(final exam questions to be distributed)*
- M 12/14      Hegel and Marx  
                    Lawhead      p. 379-398
- TH 12/17     if there is time: Schopenhauer  
                    Reader:      p. 86-90  
***final exam due***  
***please submit as Word Document (not pdf!) by email***  
***evaluations will be solicited electronically***

### **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. Topics without pertinent literature are not viable; if it requires extensive research on primary texts, then you should leave it for your dissertation.

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. (there is also a new tool, called [Summon](#), which you might want to try). Sometimes helpful also: the [Oxford Bibliographies](#). In time of COVID, you do still have access to **library resources** for your research; please visit the following site for more information: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/remote-resources-gtu-library>.