

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Chris Genovesi

Email: chris.genovesi@carleton.ca

Office: N/A

TA: N/A

COURSE INFORMATION:

Term: Spring 2020

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Department: Philosophy

COURSE OVERVIEW

Introduction to a variety of philosophical works, including contemporary, on such topics as: the nature of being, the mental, the external, consciousness, perception, experience, meaning, truth, the nature of knowledge, scientific understanding, and how language and thought represent the world.

Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1006 (no longer offered), PHIL 1501 (no longer offered).

The course is designed to acquaint students with the history and development of rationalism beginning with Descartes and ending with Chomsky. Students will also become acquainted with the role played by recent research in language to deal with longstanding Cartesian issues.

OTHER INFO

This course is entirely online. All course lectures are pre-recorded, and are available for students to access online; no in-person classes are held. The PowerPoint slides on which lectures are based will be posted on CuLearn, as well as course assignments, midterms, and exams, etc. Students are required to submit all course assignments through CuLearn.

TEXTS

Required Texts:

1. Chomsky, N., 1966, *Cartesian Linguistics: A Chapter in the History of Rationalist Thought*, Harper & Row, New York
2. Chomsky, N., 2000, *New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind*, Cambridge UP, Cambridge
3. Descartes' *Meditations, Objections to Meditations, and Descartes' Replies, Discourse on the Method* free at: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/descartes>
4. Leibniz's *New Essays, Monadology* free at <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/leibniz>

NB: 1&2 can be ordered online (amazon, google, etc.)

Secondary resources (bold identifies the most useful):

1. Antony, L. M. & Hornstein, N. (eds.), 2003, *Chomsky and His Critics*, Blackwell, Oxford
2. Calvin, W.-H. & Bickerton, D., 2000, *Lingua ex Machine*, MIT, Cambridge
3. **Cottingham, J., 1986 *Descartes*, Blackwell, Oxford**
4. **Jolley, N. 2005 *Leibniz*. Routledge, London**
5. **McGilvray, J. 1999, *Chomsky: Language, Mind, and Politics*, Polity Press, Cambridge**
6. Smith, N. 1999, *Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals*, Cambridge UP, Cambridge

7. Wilson, C. 2003, Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction, Cambridge UP, Cambridge

Other resources:

1. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
2. Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

EVALUATION

Term paper	40%
Final	60%

TERM PAPER

Students are required to write an essay approximately 1500 words in length. Students are expected to write a discussion paper that involves analyzing and evaluating central issues in the course. A guide for the paper is posted early in the semester on CuLearn that will include topics for students to choose from, along with guidelines for writing and submitting the paper. It will be due on May 15.

FINAL

The final is due June 25th. You will answer 4 questions out of 20 potential questions that I have already posted on CuLearn. You will not be told which 4 questions (out of the 20) until June 20. You will have until June 25 (all day) to upload your assignment to CuLearn.

TOPICS

NB: Students are expected to read the primary readings. Secondary readings are not required. Rather, they are there for students who wish to further enrich their philosophical experience. Pre-recorded lectures will be posted on Monday and Tuesday each week. Each topic (see below) is comprised of 2-3 pre-recorded lectures.

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| 1. Introduction to course and terminology | 6. Leibniz: Mind, Knowledge, and Ideas
Primary reading: Leibniz, New Essays, Introduction and ch. 1
Secondary reading: Jolley, Leibniz |
| 2. Descartes: Philosophical methodology
Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 1 and 2
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 1, ch. 2 | 7. Mechanism and Linguistic Creativity
Primary reading: Arnauld & Nicole, Port Royal Grammar
Secondary reading: Chomsky, Cartesian Linguistics (+ Introduction)
McGilvray, ch. 2, ch. 3 |
| 3. Descartes: God and His Existence
Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 3 and 4
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 3 | 8. Universal Grammar
Primary reading: Arnauld & Nicole, Port Royal Grammar
Chomsky, Cartesian Linguistics
Secondary reading: McGilvray, ch. 2, ch. 3 |
| 4. Descartes: Ideas and Reality
Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 4, 5 and 6
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 4 | 9. Res Cogitans and Dualism |
| 5. Leibniz: Metaphysics
Primary reading: Leibniz, Monadology
Secondary reading: Jolley, Leibniz | |

Primary reading: Descartes' Meditations,
Fourth set of Objections (Arnauld) +
Descartes' Reply
Chomsky, New Horizons, ch. 4
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 5

Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 5

10. Dualism

Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons,
ch.1, ch. 4
Louise & Horenstein (eds.), Chomsky and
His Critics: Lycan's article (ch. 1) +
Chomsky's reply

11. The Poverty of the Stimulus Argument

Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons,
ch. 6, ch. 7
Secondary reading: McGilvray, ch. 3, ch. 4

12. Language Origins and Development

Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons,
ch. 3, ch. 5
Secondary reading: Calvin & Bickerton,
Lingua ex Machina

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2020)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this summer.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Examinations:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Important Dates:

May 4 Classes start.

July 1

Statutory holiday, University closed.

May 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.	July 2	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
May 15	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.	July 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
May 18	Statutory holiday, University closed.	July 17	Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
May 22	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	Aug. 3	Civic holiday, University closed
June 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period.	Aug. 7	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period.
June 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.	Aug. 14	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses.
June 19-25	Final examinations.	Aug. 17-23	Final examinations.
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 23	Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Useful Contacts:

Department of Philosophy:	www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Centre for Student Academic Support:	https://carleton.ca/csas/ 520-3822
Student Support Services :	https://carleton.ca/academics/support/