

COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 3002
17th CENTURY PHILOSOPHY
Winter 2021: Mon-Wed, 1:05 - 2:25, online

Professor Melissa Frankel

Office: Paterson Hall 3A53 – but for Winter 2021, my “office” will be virtual

Office Hours: online (cuLearn chat) on Wednesdays during our regularly scheduled course time

Email: Melissa_frankel@carleton.ca, or through cuLearn

Course description:

(from the Undergraduate Calendar)

European philosophy of the 17th century. Representative works of writers such as Francis Bacon, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Locke.

Prerequisite: 0.5 credits in philosophy and second-year standing in a philosophy program, or permission of the department.

(for Winter 2021)

The early modern period of philosophy in Europe, which (depending on how one counts these things) covers philosophical work from the late 16th to late 18th century, is often associated with the work of 17th century philosopher René Descartes, sometimes called the ‘father of modern philosophy.’ Without taking a position on the accuracy of this narrative, in this class we will look in depth at some of the epistemological and metaphysical themes that Descartes articulates, and the ways in which some of his contemporaries and successors in the 17th century develop those themes. We will consider theories of substance and cause – how many substances / kinds of substances are there? One, two, an infinite number? Do substances causally interact with one another – can substances be causes at all, or is God the only possible cause? We will consider questions about God and the creation of the universe – can we prove that God exists? What is our relation to God? Does God create the best of all possible worlds – or is this perhaps the only possible world? We will explore these and other questions primarily through the work of Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, and Leibniz.

Required text (available at the Carleton bookstore, or online):

1. *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources* (Third Edition*). Eds. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. Hackett 2019.

*The third edition of this anthology came out quite recently, in May 2019. Because of this, it is possible that you will find many copies of the second edition available for purchase. For this course, you are welcome to use either the second or the third edition, but **when I assign readings, I will only provide references to the third edition**, and it is also possible that some of the readings will only be available in the third edition. If you choose to use the second edition, you will be responsible for finding the right page numbers for the readings, and you will also be responsible for finding readings that might not be available in that edition. You are welcome to contact me to discuss this.

Note: Many of the primary sources in this anthology can be found online. However, some online sources are abridged or otherwise altered. If you wish to consult an online source, you *must* discuss this with me, so I can help you evaluate whether or not the source is appropriate.

Some of you may wish to purchase some of the primary sources individually (rather than in an anthology.) If you wish to do this, please let me know. I will be happy to recommend specific (unabridged) editions of the texts.

Course material may sometimes include some readings that are not in the required text. Those readings will be made available on cuLearn.

Technology requirements:

This course will be a blended course. That is to say, some elements of the course will be asynchronous: they will be available online, for students to work through at a time of their choosing during a given week; but some elements of the course will be synchronous: I will expect students to complete them live, during regularly scheduled course hours, that is, Mondays-Wednesdays from 1:05-2:25 PM Eastern time. These will include both videoconference meetings as well as tests that will be available through cuLearn only during the designated class times.

For both the synchronous and asynchronous elements of this course, you will need access to a computer or to some other device that allows you to access the internet. It will be helpful if this computer or alternative device also has a camera and microphone for videoconferencing. You will need to be able to access cuLearn, as well as the other online platform that we will be using in this class, Zoom; you may also need a pdf reader to be able to read articles linked through cuLearn or Ares, which may be in pdf format. In addition, since you will sometimes need to complete tests during class time through cuLearn, you will need to have steady internet access during those times.

If you anticipate having any problems with technology or internet access, especially for the synchronous elements of the course, please email me so that we can discuss possible solutions.

cuLearn:

This course will be supported by the cuLearn Course Management System. You can access your cuLearn account by going to www.carleton.ca/culearn and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password.

Because we are online this semester, it is especially important for you to regularly check the cuLearn page for the course. It is on cuLearn that you will find the most up-to-date information regarding schedules of readings and test dates, links to Zoom meetings on the weeks in which we have those meetings, and tests on the dates that those are scheduled.

The cuLearn page for this course will be divided into weekly segments. In each of these weekly segments, you will find a list of the resources and activities that are meant to be either begun or completed during that week, as well as links to those resources and activities, if such links are

needed. On a weekly basis this will include readings, lecture videos, and video questions; sometimes this will also include links to videoconference meetings (Zoom links) and tests.

Students will be fully responsible for reading, watching, and responding appropriately to all information distributed through the cuLearn Course Page. Information provided on cuLearn will be considered to have been provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

Zoom:

In this course, we will occasionally meet live online, using the videoconferencing platform Zoom. You can find Zoom at <https://zoom.us/>. To use Zoom, you do not need a Zoom account; you only need a Zoom meeting ID, or a link to a Zoom meeting. Meeting IDs and links to meetings will be provided on cuLearn in advance of scheduled meetings.

Zoom meetings for this class will be scheduled during regular class hours. You are expected to attend these meetings, but they will also be recorded. Recordings will be made available on cuLearn within about 24 hours of the meeting.

The first Zoom meeting for this class will take place on the first day of class (Monday, January 11th); you will find the meeting ID and link on cuLearn.

Evaluation:

1. Video questions (10%)

I will be uploading pre-recorded video lectures on a weekly basis. Every week, *including the very first week of the course, but excluding those weeks during which you have a test*, these videos will be accompanied by a few questions (typically 2-4; typically multiple choice) to make sure that you are following the content of the video lectures. Each week's questions will be worth a total of **1%** of your final grade; there will be ten sets of questions, for a total of **10%**.

Ideally, each set of questions should be answered during the week in which the video lectures associated with those questions are uploaded; this will allow you to stay on top of the course content. To allow for some flexibility, however, questions will remain open and available until the day before the day of the test that covers the material from those video lectures. At this point, questions will be closed (that is, they will become unavailable).

Tentative due dates for video questions (this is subject to change):

- All questions on content from videos leading up to test 1: due **Sun, Feb 7th**, 11:59 PM
- All questions on content from videos leading up to test 2: due **Sun, Mar 14th**, 11:59 PM
- All questions on content from videos leading up to test 3: **Sun, Apr 11th**, 11:59 PM

2. Tests (50%)

There will be three online tests, based on the readings and the video lectures. Two of the tests will be worth **15%** of your final grade. The third test – whichever one on which you earn your highest test grade – will be worth **20%** of your final grade, for a total of **50%**.

Tests will take place online (**on cuLearn**), during **regularly scheduled class times**. That is, tests will open at 1:05 PM Eastern time, and will close at 2:25 PM Eastern time. I anticipate that tests will take no more than 45 mins to complete, but you will be permitted to use the entire class period (1 hr 20 mins).

Tests will be **open book**, since they are online; you are permitted to use your course textbook, as well as any notes you may have taken from the video lectures.

Note however that tests are **not open internet**: in other words, you are **not** permitted to use online resources for your answers. Use of online resources will be considered cheating.

Each test will be scheduled to take place following about 3 weeks of video lectures. Tests will be non-cumulative.

Tentative test dates (this is subject to change):

- Test 1: **Monday, Feb 8th** at 1:05 PM Eastern (covers material from weeks 1 through 4, inclusive)
- Test 2: **Monday, March 15th** at 1:05 PM Eastern (covers material from weeks 5 through 8, inclusive – includes material from Feb 10th)
- Test 3: **Monday, April 12th** at 1:05 PM Eastern (covers material from weeks 9 through 12, inclusive – includes material from March 17th)

3. Examination (40%)

There will be one take-home examination, due at the end of final exam period (**Apr 27th, 2021.**) The exam will be cumulative. It will be essay-based and will count towards **40%** of your final grade.

It is university policy that no student work may be accepted after April 27th, 2021. As such, I will not be accepting late take-homes, and no extensions will be granted. If you require extra time, you will need to obtain a deferral through the Registrar's Office. Please feel free to let me know if this is the case, as I will be glad to support you through the deferral process, if such support is desired.

Philosophy department and university policies: see final page of course outline.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

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 coming year.

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 Exams:

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 Calendar 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:

Sept. 9	Classes start.
Sept. 23	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 27	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 11	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 12-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 11	Classes begin.
Jan. 25	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 31	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 2	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 14	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses. <i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i>
Apr. 15	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 16-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

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

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735