

Syllabus: PHIL 3002  
Seventeenth Century Philosophy  
Fall 2018  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:05-5:25PM  
Canal Building 2104

Instructor: Simon Gurofsky  
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Office: Paterson Hall 3A38  
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:35AM-2:35PM  
Syllabus version: 2018/08/27  
**NB: This syllabus is subject to periodic revision. See section 5 below.**

## 1. Description

We will read some key works of British and European philosophy in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We will concentrate on theoretical philosophy—metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind. The authors we will focus on are René Descartes (1596-1650), Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677), John Locke (1632-1704), and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716). We will also read some criticisms of those philosophers from Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), Antoine Arnauld (1612-1694), Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia (1618-1680), Anne Conway (1631-1679), and Damaris Cudworth, Lady Masham (1659-1708).

## 2. Schedule

NB: For readings posted on Ares, I have indicated as much by preceding them with ‘ARES’ and listed readings by document title and ID number.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic, Due Dates, Events</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 – September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and background	N/A
Week 2 – September 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Descartes <b>Question due Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , introductory materials and Meditations 1-3 (pages 35-54 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 3 – September 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Descartes continued <b>Question due Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Meditations 4-6 (pages 54-68 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 4 – September 24 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Descartes and his critics <b>(1) Question due Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b> <b>(2) Paper topics for first exegetical paper distributed September 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Descartes, Hobbes, and Arnauld, <i>Objections and Replies</i> (pages 69-92 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )  (2) Descartes and Elisabeth, selections from their correspondence (pages 9-21 in <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i> )
Week 5 – October 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Spinoza <b>Question due Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part 1 (pages 144-164 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 6 – October 10 <sup>th</sup> (no class October 8 <sup>th</sup> )	Spinoza continued <b>(1) Question due Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b> <b>(2) FIRST EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:59pm</b>	<b>Required:</b> Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part 2 (pages 164-187 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 7 – October 15 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	October 15 <sup>th</sup> : Spinoza continued October 17 <sup>th</sup> : Spinoza and his critics <b>Question due Friday, October</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i> , Part 3, selections (pages 188-195 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )

	<b>19<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b>	<p>(2) Conway, selections from <i>The Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy</i> (pages 48-76 in <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i>)</p> <p>(3) <b>ARES:</b> Spinoza and Tschirnhaus, “A Spinoza reader: The Ethics and other works. Objections and replies: from the correspondence between Spinoza and Tschirnhaus.” (ID # 207355)</p> <p>(4) <b>ARES:</b> Leibniz, “Philosophical essays. Comments on Spinoza’s philosophy (1707?).” (ID # 207353)</p>
Week 8 – <b>No class</b>	Fall break	
Week 9 – October 29 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	<p>October 29<sup>th</sup>: Spinoza and his critics continued</p> <p>October 31<sup>st</sup>: Locke</p> <p><b>Question due Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12PM</b></p>	<b>Required:</b> Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selections from books I and II (pages 316-377 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 10 – November 5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Locke continued</p> <p><b>(1) Question due Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b></p> <p><b>(2) Paper topics for second exegetical paper distributed November 7<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<b>Required:</b> Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selections from books III and IV (pages 377-421 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 11 – November 12 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>November 12<sup>th</sup>: Locke continued</p> <p>November 14<sup>th</sup>: Locke and his critics</p> <p><b>Question due Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b></p>	<p><b>Required:</b> (1) <b>ARES:</b> Leibniz, “Philosophical essays. From a letter to Thomas Burnett, on the occasion of rereading Locke (3 December 1703).” (ID # 207688)</p> <p>(2) <b>ARES:</b> Leibniz, “Philosophical essays. From the letters to Thomas Burnett, on substance (1699).” (ID # 207687)</p> <p>(3) <b>ARES:</b> Leibniz, “Philosophical essays. From a letter to Lady Masham, on thinking matter (30 June 1704).” (ID # 207689)</p> <p>(4) Leibniz, Preface to the <i>New Essays</i> (pages 422-433 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i>)</p>
Week 12 – November 19 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>November 19<sup>th</sup>: Locke and his critics</p> <p>November 21<sup>st</sup>: Leibniz</p> <p><b>(1) Question due Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12PM</b></p> <p><b>(2) SECOND EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 11:59PM</b></p>	<b>Required:</b> Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> (pages 224-247 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 13 – November 26 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Leibniz continued</p> <p><b>(1) Question due Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 12PM</b></p> <p><b>(2) Final paper topics distributed</b></p>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Leibniz, “From the Letters to Arnauld” (pages 248-64 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )

	<b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(3) Last day to propose your own final paper topic to me</b> <b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b>	(2) Leibniz, <i>Primary Truths</i> (pages 265-268 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )  (3) Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature</i> (pages 269-274 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )  (4) Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> (pages 275-283 in <i>Modern Philosophy</i> )
Week 14 – December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Leibniz continued December 5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> : Leibniz and his critics + course wrap-up <b>No question due this week</b>	<b>Required:</b> Leibniz and Masham, selections from their correspondence (pages 77-95 in <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i> )
Exam period – December 9 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> – I absolutely cannot accept work later than this date, so don't wait until 11:59PM and risk the date flipping over to midnight the next day.</b>	

### 3. Where to Find the Readings

Students are to purchase the following two books:

(1) Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, eds., *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, second edition, published by Hackett. Available on Amazon here: <http://www.amazon.ca/Modern-Philosophy-Anthology-Primary-Sources/dp/0872209784/>

(2) Margaret Atherton, ed., *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, published by Hackett. Available on Amazon here: <https://www.amazon.ca/Women-Philosophers-Early-Modern-Period/dp/0872202593/>

All other readings available through Ares.

### 4. Evaluation

**NB: All assignments are to be submitted through cuLearn.** See below.

1) Attendance and participation (15% of final grade). Students are expected to attend every lecture, to have read the material assigned and to be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully. However, students may miss one lecture, no questions asked. Beyond that, if you need to miss a class, you'll need to provide me with a compelling explanation **in writing** beforehand and to receive a **written acknowledgement** from me. For every class missed without compelling explanation beyond the first, this mark will drop 2% from its 15% starting point (to 13%, 11%, etc., down to 0).

2) Weekly questions (15% of final grade). Beginning in second week, at the time indicated in the schedule above, each student shall post a question about some element of the reading for that week to the course discussion board on cuLearn. It can be about something that interested you, that provoked you, that you did not understand, that you disagreed with, etc., so long as it shows substantial engagement with the texts. Grading is for completion only and is similar to that for attendance above: You can miss one question no questions asked, but thereafter, you'll need to provide me with a compelling explanation **in writing** beforehand and to receive a **written acknowledgement** from me. For every question you miss without compelling explanation, this part of your final grade drops by 2% (to 13%, 11%, etc., down to 0). What you ask in your questions will often bear on the contents of my lectures, so **questions cannot be posted late.**

3) Exegetical essays (1 x 15% + 1 x 20% = 35% of final grade). Twice during the semester, at times indicated in the schedule above, students shall submit papers of no less than 1300 and no more than 1600 words explaining a passage or argument from a work assigned in class. These papers will be primarily exegetical, meaning that your

task will be to explain the passage or argument in question as clearly and precisely as you are able. These will be written in response to set topics, distributed by me no less than two full weeks before the due date. You are not to engage with secondary literature in these papers.

4) Final essay (35% of final grade). Students shall submit a final paper of no less than 2000 and no more than 2500 words on the **final day of the exam period (December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018)**. Topics will be distributed no later than one week before the end of term. However, students **may** write on a topic of their choosing **provided they arrange a meeting with me to discuss it by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. This paper will have both an **exegetical** and an **evaluative** component, meaning that you will not only be asked to explain a text but also (1) to consider what you take to be a compelling objection to the text you've explained, and (2) to take a stand on whether the objection succeeds or fails and to make an argument for that stance. For this paper, you are not required to engage with secondary literature, but you may feel free to do so, and I am happy to make recommendations.

## 5. cuLearn and E-Mail

This course will have a cuLearn page. A variety of resources may be made available through the cuLearn site, including some readings for the course. You can access your cuLearn account by going to [www.carleton.ca/culearn](http://www.carleton.ca/culearn) and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password.

Students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to all information distributed to students through the cuLearn course page. **Information provided on the cuLearn course page, including revised/updated versions of the syllabus, will be considered read by all registered students within 24 hours of posting.**

**All assignments are to be submitted through cuLearn.**

Periodically I will need to send you e-mail, either individually or as a class. You **must** check your university e-mail account regularly. **Any e-mail or information sent to you by e-mail will be considered read within 24 hours of being sent.**

## 6. Additional Policies

**Assignment formatting:** All assignments should be submitted in .docx or .pdf, and should have on the first page:

- 1) Student name
- 2) Student number
- 3) Course number and section
- 4) Instructor's name
- 5) Word count

**Assignment submission:** All assignments are to be submitted via CULearn. All assignments are due by 11:59PM on their respective due dates **except for questions**, which are due at 12PM on their respective due dates (see schedule above for due dates).

**Electronic devices:** All cellphones are to be silenced or turned off and put away during class. Laptops are **not** permitted in class **unless** you require academic accommodation; if you do, see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Extensions/late assignments:** For the two **exegetical essays**, extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or family emergency) and only if the extension is requested in writing and acknowledged by me **before** the assignment due date. Otherwise, for every day late, you will lose one third of a letter grade (A+ to A, A to A-, etc.) from your mark for that assignment. For the **final paper** and for **weekly questions**, **NO EXTENSIONS/LATE SUBMISSIONS ARE POSSIBLE**. For all assignments, failure to submit an assignment will result in a grade of 0.

**Missing assignments and corrupt files:** Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If an assignment is lost at any point or the file containing it is corrupted, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy **immediately upon request**.

## **Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)**

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **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 Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**Pregnancy 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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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. 9	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.
Apr. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735