

COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 5600
Topics in the History of Philosophy: God in Early Modern Philosophy
Winter 2012: Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30 PM, Paterson Hall 3A36

Professor Melissa Frankel
Office: Paterson Hall 3A53
Office Hours: TBA
Email: WebCT (see below)

Course description:

Discussions of the existence and nature of God play a central role in early modern philosophy. In this course we'll consider some of the ways in which God figures in the philosophical arguments of the 17th and 18th centuries. We will be consulting primary texts from philosophers including Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, Berkeley, and Leibniz, and looking at such diverse topics as proofs of the existence of God, God and the possibility of human free will, God and the problem of evil, God's role in perception, God's causal role, and God and the laws of nature.

Required texts :

We will be consulting a variety of primary texts in this course. Because there are so many, I will not require you to purchase any of them. Instead, I will typically make readings available on WebCT (e.g., by linking to online resources through Carleton library's e-resources, when available.) If, however, you do want to purchase the texts that we will be looking at, they are all available for purchasing online (e.g., through amazon.ca).

Note: Some online sources are abridged or otherwise altered. If you wish to consult an online source other than the ones that I indicate, you must discuss this with me, so that I can help you to evaluate whether or not the source is appropriate.

I will also ask you to consult secondary sources. I will do my best to ensure that you have access to them through your Carleton library access. (E.g., a number of these secondary sources are available through the JSTOR database.)

We will be consulting at least the following primary texts:

1. George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, ed. J. Dancy (Oxford University Press.)
2. George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, ed. J. Dancy (OUP.)
3. Rene Descartes, *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Volumes 1-3, ed. and trans. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, D. Murdoch, and A. Kenny (vol .3) (Cambridge University Press.)
4. Gottfried Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, ed. and trans. R. Ariew and D. Garber (Hackett.)
5. John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. P.H. Nidditch (OUP.)

6. Nicolas Malebranche, *Dialogues on Metaphysics and on Religion*, ed. N. Jolley and D. Scott (CUP.)

7. Nicolas Malebranche, *The Search After Truth*, ed. T. Lennon and P.J. Olscamp (CUP.)

8. Benedict de Spinoza, *A Spinoza Reader*, ed. and trans. E. Curley (Princeton University Press.)

Note: If you own (and plan on using) a different edition of one of these texts, please discuss this with me, so that I can help you to evaluate whether or not your edition is appropriate.

WebCT:

Please note that this course will be supported by the WebCT Course Management System. *All correspondence with the professor regarding this course should be carried out through the WebCT e-mail system only.*

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

Evaluation:

1. Presentation – you will be asked to present a topic to the class at least once during the semester. Presentations should be about **20-30 minutes** long, and on one of the secondary sources. You should meet with me at least one week before your presentation, in order to discuss the presentation. Your presentation will be worth **25%** of your grade.

Note: I will ask you to sign up for a presentation topic at the beginning of the second class of the semester (**January 17th**.)

2. Final paper – A mid-length paper (**15-20 pages**) on a topic of your choosing, due on the last day of class for the Winter Semester (**April 5th, 2012.**) You must consult with me on your topic at least two weeks before final papers are due. Topics *must be approved*. This paper will be worth **75%** of your grade.

Some course policies:

1. Lateness penalties: Assignments will be penalized by one third of a grade per day for every day that they are late. For instance, a paper marked B+ on its merits will be reduced to a B on the first day that it is late, and to a C- on the fifth day.

2. Extensions: No extensions will be granted for final papers, as it is university policy that the last day for handing in course assignments is the last day of classes (in this case, April 5th, 2012.)

Tentative Course Calendar (subject to revision)

1/10	Introduction
1/17	Arguments for the existence of God: ontological arguments Descartes, Spinoza
1/24	Arguments for the existence of God: causal arguments Descartes, Leibniz
1/31	Arguments for the existence of God / The role of God in perception Berkeley
2/7	Berkeley, continued
2/14	The role of God in perception Malebranche
2/21	No class
2/28	The role of God in causation Descartes, Malebranche, Leibniz
3/6	The role of God in causation, continued
3/13	The role of God in perception Locke
3/20	God, error, free will Descartes
3/27	God, necessity, contingency Spinoza, Leibniz
4/3	TBA

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- 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.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadre/suniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation:

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

Pregnancy obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735