

## **Humanities 116: Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities**

Section no. 1. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50 pm., Cobb 106.

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### **Course Requirements**

Classroom participation, including attendance at and participation in writing seminars. Three 4–6 page papers, due Mon., Jan. 26, Wed., Feb. 25, and Wed., Mar. 17.

### **Texts**

Cervantes, *Adventures of Don Quixote*, tr. John Rutherford (Penguin Classics).

Descartes, *Selected Philosophical Writings*, tr. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff and Dugald Murdoch (Cambridge).

Hume, *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*, ed. R.H. Popkin, 2d ed. (Hackett).

Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, ed. R. Ariew and D. Garber (Hackett).

All texts should be available at the Seminary Coop. Readings not on the above list will be made available as photocopies.

(As was the case last quarter, you can use a different translation/edition at your own risk. We're reading Hume in the original, of course.)

### **Readings**

Mon., Jan. 5: (no reading, first class).

Wed., Jan. 7: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, Prologue and ch. 1–5, 7–10, and 15–18.

Mon., Jan. 12: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, ch. 20–22, 45–50 and 52.

Wed., Jan. 14: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1 and 2 (pp. 20–31); *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9).

- Mon., Jan. 19: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).
- Wed., Jan. 21: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, and John Philoponus (on substance and accident).
- Mon., Jan. 26: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident) (and **first paper due**).
- Wed., Jan. 28: Descartes, *Second Meditation* (pp. 80–86).
- Mon., Feb. 2: Leibniz, “Monadology” (pp. 213–25), and selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels) (recommended).
- Wed., Feb. 4: continued discussion of the “Monadology.”
- Mon., Feb. 9: **no class** (break).
- Wed., Feb. 11: Leibniz, “A New System of Nature,” first three paragraphs (pp. 138–9); “A Specimen of Dynamics,” first two paragraphs (pp. 118–19); from letters to Clarke: 2.12 (p. 324), 3.17 (p. 327), 4.42 (p. 331), 5.107–11 (pp. 343–4), along with Clarke’s replies to each (in handout); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” (pp. 35–68), §§8–16, 19–20, 24, 26–8.
- Mon., Feb. 16: selections from Locke, *Essay concerning Human Understanding* and Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (handout).
- Wed., Feb. 18: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, Prologue, ch. 2–3, 7–10, 22–3, 26, 30–35.
- Mon., Feb. 23: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, ch. 41, 54, 57–9, 64–5, 71–2, 74.
- Wed., Feb. 25: Descartes, *Third Meditation* (pp. 86–98); Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, “Pamphillus to Hermippus” and part 1 (pp. 1–12) (and **second paper due**).
- Mon., Mar. 1: Descartes, *Fourth* and *Sixth Meditations* (pp. 98–105, 110–122).
- Wed., Mar. 3: Descartes, *Fifth Meditation* (pp. 105–110); brief selections from other authors (required: St. Anselm, Leibniz, Kant; recommended: St. Thomas, Spinoza, Hegel) (on the Ontological Proof).

Mon., Mar. 8: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 2–8 (pp. 13–53).

Wed., Mar. 10: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 9–12 (pp. 54–89).

Wed., Mar. 17: **third paper due.**

## Timeline

Timeline of various stuff more or less relevant to this course:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>347 B.C.</b> Death of Plato</p>                                  | • | <p><b>399 B.C.</b> Death of Socrates</p>                           |
| <p><b>197 B.C.</b> <i>Roman conquest of Greece</i></p>                 | • | <p><b>322 B.C.</b> Death of Aristotle</p>                          |
| <p><b>1</b> <i>Birth of Jesus (approx.)</i></p>                        | – |  |
| <p><b>305</b> Death of Porphyry (approx.)</p>                          | • | <p><b>270</b> Death of Plotinus</p>                                |
| <p><b>410</b> <i>Sack of Rome by the Visigoths</i></p>                 | • | <p><b>312</b> <i>Conversion of Constantine to Christianity</i></p> |
| <p><b>529</b> <i>Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens</i></p> | – | <p><b>6th c.</b> John Philoponus</p>                               |
| <p><b>622</b> <i>Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina</i></p>           | – |  |
| <p><b>711</b> <i>Muslim conquest of Spain</i></p>                      | – |  |
| <p><b>8th–9th c.</b> <i>Aristotle translated into Arabic</i></p>       | – |  |
| <p><b>11th–13th c.</b> <i>Aristotle translated into Latin</i></p>      | • | <p><b>1037</b> Death of Avicenna</p>                               |
| <p><b>1204–1261</b> <i>Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople</i></p> | • | <p><b>1109</b> Death of St. Anselm of Canterbury</p>               |
| <p><b>1347–1351</b> <i>The Black Death</i></p>                         | • | <p><b>1274</b> Death of St. Thomas Aquinas</p>                     |
| <p><b>1453</b> <i>Fall of Constantinople to Turks</i></p>              | – | <p><b>1492</b> <i>End of Christian Reconquest of Spain</i></p>     |
| <p><b>1517</b> <i>Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”</i></p>              | – |  |
| <p><b>1632</b> <i>Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems</i></p>         | • | <p><b>1604</b> Publ. of <i>Don Quixote</i>, part 1</p>             |
| <p><b>1687</b> <i>Publ. of Newton’s Principia</i></p>                  | • | <p><b>1641</b> Publ. of <i>Meditations</i></p>                     |
| <p><b>1714</b> Leibniz composes “Monadology”</p>                       | • | <p><b>1689</b> Publ. of Locke’s <i>Essay</i></p>                   |
| <p><b>1781</b> Publ. of <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (1st ed.)</p>   | • | <p><b>1739</b> Publ. of Hume’s <i>Treatise</i></p>                 |
| <p><b>2004</b> <i>Now</i></p>  | • | <p><b>1789</b> <i>French Revolution</i></p>                        |