

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

Section no. 1. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50 pm., Cobb 101.

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### **Course Requirements**

Classroom participation, including attendance at and participation in writing seminars. Brief exercises on metaphysics, due Jan. 10, Jan. 12, Jan. 17, Jan. 19, Feb. 14, Feb. 28, and Mar. 7. (Each of these will consist of a few short answer, multiple choice, or fill-in-the-blanks questions designed to help you focus on terminology and basic issues. We will do the relevant reading *and* discuss it in class before you have to do each exercise.) Two 4–6 page papers, due Wed., Feb. 9, And Wed., Mar. 16. (Roughly speaking, all the exercises together will count as one paper.)

### **Texts**

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

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

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.)

### **Readings**

Mon., Jan. 3: (no reading, first class).

Wed., Jan. 5: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Mon., Jan. 10: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). Metaphysics Exercise #1 due.

Wed., Jan. 12: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, and John Philoponus (on substance and accident). Metaphysics exercise #2 due.

Mon., Jan. 17: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident). Metaphysics exercise #3 due.

Wed., Jan. 19: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, Prologue and ch. 1–5, 7–10, and 15–18. Metaphysics exercise #4 due.

Mon., Jan. 24: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, ch. 20–22, 45–50 and 52.

Wed., Jan. 26: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1, 2 and beginning of 3 (pp. 20–32, through the paragraph ending “which later, in their inconstancy, they judge to be bad”) and *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9).

Mon., Jan. 31: continued discussion of the *First Meditation*.

Wed., Feb. 2: Descartes, beginning of *Second Meditation* (pp. 80–83, through the paragraph ending “in this restricted sense of the term it is simply thinking”).

Mon., Feb. 7: **no class** (break).

Wed., Feb. 9: Descartes, remainder of *Second Meditation* (pp. 83–6) (and **first paper due**).

Mon., Feb. 14: Descartes, *Third Meditation* (pp. 86–98). Metaphysics exercise #5 due.

Wed., Feb. 16: Descartes, *Fourth* and *Sixth Meditations* (pp. 98–105; 110–122).

Mon., Feb. 21: Leibniz, “Monadology” (pp. 213–25), and selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels) (recommended).

Wed., Feb. 23: continued discussion of the “Monadology.”

Mon., Feb. 28: 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. Metaphysics exercise #6/7 due.

Wed., Mar. 2: selections from Locke, *Essay concerning Human Understanding* and Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (handout).

Mon., Mar. 7: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, Prologue, ch. 2–3, 7–10, 22–3, 26, 30–35, 41, 54, 57–9. Metaphysics exercise #8 due.

Wed., Mar. 9: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, 64–5, 71–2, 74.

Wed., Mar. 16: **second paper due.**

## Timeline

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

<b>347 B.C.</b> Death of Plato	•	<b>399 B.C.</b> Death of Socrates
	•	<b>322 B.C.</b> Death of Aristotle
<b>197 B.C.</b> <i>Roman conquest of Greece</i>	–	
<b>1</b> <i>Birth of Jesus (approx.)</i>	–	
<b>305</b> Death of Porphyry (approx.)	•	<b>270</b> Death of Plotinus
	•	<b>312</b> <i>Conversion of Constantine to Christianity</i>
<b>410</b> <i>Sack of Rome by the Visigoths</i>	–	
<b>529</b> <i>Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens</i>	–	<b>6th c.</b> John Philoponus
<b>622</b> <i>Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina</i>	–	
<b>711</b> <i>Muslim conquest of Spain</i>	–	
<b>8th–9th c.</b> <i>Aristotle translated into Arabic</i>	–	
	•	<b>1037</b> Death of Avicenna
<b>11th–13th c.</b> <i>Aristotle translated into Latin</i>	•	<b>1109</b> Death of St. Anselm of Canterbury
<b>1204–1261</b> <i>Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople</i>	•	<b>1274</b> Death of St. Thomas Aquinas
<b>1347–1351</b> <i>The Black Death</i>	–	
<b>1453</b> <i>Fall of Constantinople to Turks</i>	–	<b>1492</b> <i>End of Christian Reconquest of Spain</i>
<b>1517</b> <i>Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”</i>	–	
<b>1632</b> <i>Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems</i>	•	<b>1604</b> Publ. of <i>Don Quixote</i> , part 1
<b>1687</b> <i>Publ. of Newton’s Principia</i>	•	<b>1641</b> Publ. of <i>Meditations</i>
<b>1714</b> Leibniz composes “Monadology”	•	<b>1689</b> Publ. of Locke’s <i>Essay</i>
<b>1781</b> Publ. of <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (1st ed.)	•	<b>1739</b> Publ. of Hume’s <i>Treatise</i>
	•	<b>1789</b> <i>French Revolution</i>
<b>2005</b> <i>Now</i>	–	