Humanities 116: Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities
Section no. 3. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50pm, Cobb 304.
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Course Requirements

Texts
Cervantes, Adventures of Don Quixote, tr. J.M. Cohen (Penguin Classics). (Note: there is a more recent Penguin Classics edition with a different translator, but I prefer this one.)

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 University of Chicago Bookstore (a.k.a. Barnes and Noble). 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. 6: (no reading, first class).


Wed., Jan. 15: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1 and 2 (pp. 20–31); *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9).

Mon., Jan. 20: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).


Mon., Jan. 27: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident) (and **first paper** due).


Mon., Feb. 3: Leibniz, “Monadology” (pp. 213–25), and selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels) (recommended).

Wed., Feb. 5: continued discussion of the “Monadology.”

Mon., Feb. 10: **no class** (break).

Wed., Feb. 12: 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. 17: selections from Locke and Hume, TBA.


Wed., Feb. 26: Descartes, *Third Meditation* (pp. 86–98); Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, “Pamphilus to Hermippus” and part 1 (pp. 1–12) (and **second paper** due).

Wed., Mar. 5: 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).


(Note: third paper due due Wed., Mar. 19.)
Timeline

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

347 B.C. Death of Plato

197 B.C. Roman conquest of Greece

1 Birth of Jesus (approx.)

305 Death of Porphyry (approx.)

410 Sack of Rome by the Visigoths

529 Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens

622 Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina

711 Muslim conquest of Spain

8th–9th c. Aristotle translated into Arabic

1037 Death of Avicenna

1109 Death of St. Anselm of Canterbury

1274 Death of St. Thomas Aquinas

1492 End of Christian Reconquest of Spain

1604 Publ. of Don Quixote, part 1

1641 Publ. of Meditations

1714 Leibniz composes “Monadology”

1779 Publ. of Dialogues Concerning Nat. Relig.

1789 French Revolution

2003 Now