

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

Section no. 4. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50pm, Cobb 207.

Professor: Abe Stone

[abestone@uchicago.edu](mailto:abestone@uchicago.edu)

Office: Gates-Blake 228

Phone (office): 702-3085

Office hours: Mon., 11–12; Tue., 12:30–1:30; or by appointment.

Writing Intern: Megan Benner

[meg@uchicago.edu](mailto:meg@uchicago.edu)

Office: Classics 19-C (note diff. from last quarter)

Phone (office):

Office hours: Tue., 1:30–3:30.

### **Course Requirements**

Classroom participation. Three 4–6 page papers, due on Wed., Jan. 30 (in class), Wed., Feb. 20 (in class), and Wed., Mar. 13 (in my office, by 4:30pm).

### **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).

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

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

(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**

Wed., Jan. 9: short selections from Maimonides, *Guide to the Perplexed* and Spinoza, *Theologico-Political Treatise*.

- Mon., Jan. 14: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, Prologue and ch. 1–5, 7–10, 15–18, and 20–22.
- Wed., Jan. 16: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, ch. 45–50 and 52.
- Mon., Jan. 21: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1 and 2 (pp. 20–31); *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9).
- Wed., Jan. 23: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).
- Mon., Jan. 28: selections from later writers (Plotinus, Porphyry, John Philoponus, Avicenna, and Thomas Aquinas) on substance and accident.
- Wed., Jan. 30: Descartes, *Second Meditation* (pp. 80–86) (and **first paper due**).
- Mon., Feb. 4: **no class** (break).
- Wed., Feb. 6: Leibniz, “Monadology” (pp. 213–25), and selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels) (recommended).
- Mon., 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), 5.107–8 (p. 343), along with Clarke’s replies to each (in handout); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” (pp. 35–68), §§8–16, 19–20, 24, 26–8.
- Wed., Feb. 13: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, Prologue, ch. 2–3, 7–10, 22–3, 26, 30–35.
- Thurs., Feb. 14 (evening): screening of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* [this was rescheduled].
- Mon., Feb. 18: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, ch. 41, 54, 57–9, 64–5, 71–2, 74.
- Wed., Feb. 20: 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., Feb. 25: Descartes, *Fourth* and *Sixth Meditations* (pp. 98–105, 110–122).

Wed., Feb. 27: 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. 4: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 2–8 (pp. 13–53).

Wed., Mar. 6: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 9–12 (pp. 54–89).

## Timeline

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

<p><b>347 B.C.</b> Death of Plato</p> <p><b>197 B.C.</b> <i>Roman conquest of Greece</i></p> <p><b>1</b> <i>Birth of Jesus (approx.)</i></p> <p><b>305</b> Death of Porphyry (approx.)</p> <p><b>410</b> <i>Sack of Rome by the Visigoths</i></p> <p><b>529</b> <i>Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens</i></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>1204–1261</b> <i>Crusader rule in Constantinople</i></p> <p><b>1347–1351</b> <i>The Black Death</i></p> <p><b>1453</b> <i>Fall of Constantinople to Turks</i></p> <p><b>1517</b> <i>Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”</i></p> <p><b>1641</b> <i>Publ. of Meditations</i></p> <p><b>1714</b> <i>Leibniz composes “Monadology”</i></p> <p><b>1781</b> <i>Publ. of Critique of Pure Reason (1st ed.)</i></p> <p><b>2002</b> <i>Now</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>399 B.C.</b> Death of Socrates</li> <li>• <b>322 B.C.</b> Death of Aristotle</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>• <b>270</b> Death of Plotinus</li> <li>• <b>312</b> <i>Conversion of Constantine to Christianity</i></li> <li>–</li> <li><b>6th c.</b> John Philoponus</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li>• <b>1037</b> Death of Avicenna</li> <li>• <b>1109</b> Death of St. Anselm of Canterbury</li> <li>• <b>1204</b> Death of Maimonides</li> <li>• <b>1274</b> Death of St. Thomas Aquinas</li> <li>–</li> <li>–</li> <li><b>1492</b> <i>End of Christian Reconquest of Spain</i></li> <li>–</li> <li>• <b>1604</b> <i>Publ. of Don Quixote, part 1</i></li> <li>• <b>1670</b> <i>Publ. of Theologico-Political Treatise</i></li> <li>• <b>1779</b> <i>Publ. of Dialogues Concerning Nat. Relig.</i></li> <li>• <b>1789</b> <i>French Revolution</i></li> </ul>
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