Phil 100B: The Rationalists

Spring 2013
Tue. and Thurs., 6–7:45pm.

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu)
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Phone (office): 459-5723
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Website: http://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses
Office hours: Tues. 3:15pm–4:15; Thurs. 11:45am–12:45pm.

Teaching Assistants:

Jav Cardoza-Kon (jcardoza@ucsc.edu)
Sections: Mon. 2pm (Cowell Acad. 223); Mon. 3:30pm (Cowell Acad. 223).

Amena Coronado (acorona2@ucsc.edu)
Sections: Thurs. 10am (Cowell Acad. 216); Thurs. 12pm (Cowell Acad. 216).

James Sutter (jsutter@ucsc.edu)
Sections: Wed. 12:30pm (Cowell Acad. 216); Wed. 2pm (Cowell Acad. 216).

Course Requirements

Participation in discussion sections (good participation will be possible grounds for raising course grade, especially if it is on a borderline).

“Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a short take-home multiple choice quiz), due most class days (all exercises together are worth 35% of the final grade; graded heavily on a curve). These will be made available on-line via the “Tests & Quizzes” tool on ecommons.

Two short papers (2–3 pages), due Tues., Apr. 30 and Tues., May 21 (worth 15% each of the final grade).

One longer paper (6–8 pages) (worth 35% of the final grade). The paper is due Tues., June 11, but you must hand in an introductory paragraph and brief outline (approximately one sentence per paragraph of the proposed complete paper) at some time on or before Tues., June 4. Your TA will send this back to you as soon as possible with 1

1Please feel free to contact the instructor and/or your TA with questions about the substance of the course (philosophical issues, questions about the meaning of the texts, questions about paper topics, etc.). On administrative issues (grades, lateness/extensions, due dates, section times, etc.) please try your TA first.
suggested changes, which you should take into account. This preliminary assignment will not be separately graded, but if you do not hand it in at all or if it is wholly unsatisfactory, your grade on the final paper will be reduced by one half step (e.g. A to A-).

All paper assignments are available on-line, and there are links to them from this syllabus as well as from my main course page. I will discuss the assignments in class when the due date draws near. You can find answers to some commonly asked questions about my assignments and grading at http://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courseso.html

Readings

Tues., Apr. 2: (no reading, first class).

I. Background: Aristotelian Metaphysics

Thurs., Apr. 4: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Tues., Apr. 9: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). ME #1 due.

Thurs., Apr. 11: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, Avicenna, and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident). ME #2 due.

II. Descartes

Tues., Apr. 16: Descartes, Discourse on the Method, parts 1–3 (pp. 20–35), part 6, first paragraph (p. 46); Principles of Philosophy I.1–3 (p. 160), IV.207 (p. 212). ME #3 due.

Thurs., Apr. 18: First Meditation (pp. 76–9). No ME due.

Tues., Apr. 23: beginning of Second Meditation (pp. 80–83, through the paragraph ending “in this restricted sense of the term it is simply thinking”); Principles of Philosophy I.9–10 (p. 162–3), .20 (pp. 166–7); Objections and Replies, selection entitled “[Appendix: Arguments Arranged in Geometrical Fashion],” pp. 150–52. ME #4 due.

Thurs., Apr. 25: remainder of Second Meditation (pp. 83–6); Principles of Philosophy I.8 (p. 162), .11 (p. 163), .45–8 (pp. 174–6), .51–4 (pp. 177–8), .63 (p. 182), .66 (p. 183), II.4 (p. 190). ME #5 due.
Tues., Apr. 30: *Third and Fifth Meditations* (pp. 86–98; 105–110). **First paper due.** No ME due.

Thurs., May 2: *Fourth Meditation* (pp. 98–105); *Principles of Philosophy* I.6 (p. 161); *Objections and Replies*, selection entitled “[The indifference of the will]” (pp. 134–5). ME #6 due.

Tues., May 7: *Sixth Meditation* (pp. 110–22); *Passions of the Soul* I.17–18 (p. 225), .25 (pp. 227–8); .30–35 (pp. 229–32); .39–41 (p. 233); .49–50 (pp. 237–8). ME #7 due.

**III. Spinoza**

Thurs, May 9: Spinoza, *Ethics*, I, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 15 (pp. 31–43). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, ch. 7, tr. Elwes, pp. 98–top of 101 (ending “which occur in the Bible”). (All readings from this text are available as a single file on ecommons.) ME #8 due.

Mon., May 13 (10:30am–12:15pm, in Hum 1 210): *Ethics*, I, Prop. 16 through end (pp. 43–62). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 101–4 (ending “its meaning concerning them”). A video of this lecture is available on YouTube.

Tues., May 14: *Ethics*, II, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 18 (pp. 63–79). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, paragraph beginning at the bottom of p. 106 (“We have thus shown . . .”) and ending on p. 107 (“. . .about the former”); top of p. 114 (beginning “There only remains”)–top of p. 117 (ending “the learned fare alike”). ME #9 due.

Thurs., May 16: **no class** due to Shavuot. ME #10 due.


Thurs., May 23: Spinoza *Ethics*, III, beginning through Scholium to Prop. 11 (pp. 102–111) and Prop. 53 (p. 136); IV, Definitions (pp. 155–6) and Prop. 28 (p. 168); V, Preface (pp. 201–3), Prop. 4 (p. 206) and Prop. 14 to end (pp. 210–23). ME #11 due and **Second paper due.**

**IV. Leibniz**
**Tues., May 28:** Leibniz, “A New System of Nature,” first three paragraphs (pp. 138–9); from letters to Clarke: 1.4 (pp. 320–21), 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; “A Specimen of Dynamics,” first two paragraphs (pp. 118–19); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” §§8–12, 24, 26–8, 33 (pp. 40–44, 56–7, 58–60, 64–5). ME #12 due.

**Thurs., May 30:** “A New System of Nature,” remaining part (pp. 139–45); “Monadology,” §§1–61 (pp. 213-21). No ME due.

**Tues., Jun. 4:** selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels); Leibniz, from letters to de Volder, last two paragraphs of B, first paragraph of C, and first paragraph of D (pp. 178–9, 181–2); “Monadology,” §§62–81 (pp. 221–3). **Introductory paragraph and outline of final paper due.** No ME due.


**Tues., Jun. 11:** **final paper due.**

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2The symbol § stands for “section.”
Timeline

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

- 399 B.C. Death of Socrates
- 322 B.C. Death of Aristotle
- 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

- 8th–9th c. Aristotle translated into Arabic

- 270 Death of Plotinus
- 312 Conversion of Constantine to Christianity

- 6th c. John Philoponus

- 1037 Death of Avicenna

- 11th–13th c. Aristotle translated into Latin
- 1204–1261 Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople
- 1347–1351 The Black Death
- 1453 Fall of Constantinople to Turks
- 1517 Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”

- 1632 Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems
- 1677 Publ. of Spinoza’s Ethics

- 1641 Publ. of D.’s Meditations
- 1714 Leibniz composes “Monadology”

- 1781 Publ. of Critique of Pure Reason (1st ed.)
- 1789 French Revolution

- 2013 Now