Phil 100B (formerly 93): The Rationalists

Winter 2010
Tue. and Thurs., 12 noon–1:45pm, Stevenson Acad. 175.

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Office hours: Thurs., 2–4pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:
Andrew Delunas (adelunas@ucsc.edu). Sections: Thurs. 10am (Crown 104); Thurs. 6pm (Cowell 222).
Evan Lam (eclam@ucsc.edu). Sections: Mon. 2pm (Cowell 222); Wed. 9:30am (Cowell 222).
Kayla Lane (kayla.lane@gmail.com). Wed. 11am (Cowell 222); Wed. 12:30pm (Cowell 222).

Course Requirements

Participation in discussion sections (approximately 10% of grade).

“Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a short take-home multiple choice quiz), due most class days (all exercises together, approximately 30%; graded heavily on a curve). (Exercises due Tues., Jan. 12; Thurs., Jan. 14; Tues., Jan. 19; Tues., Jan. 26; Thurs., Jan. 28; Thurs., Feb. 4; Tues., Feb. 9; Thurs., Feb. 11; Tues., Feb. 16; Thurs., Feb. 18; Tues., Feb. 23; Thurs., Feb. 25; Tues., Mar. 2; Tues., Mar. 9.)

One short paper (2–3 pages), due Tues., Feb. 2 (approximately 20%).

One longer paper (6–8 pages), due Wed., Mar. 16 (approximately 40%).

The ME’s are due in class, but if you can’t make it class you may e-mail your answers to your TA. Papers are due by e-mail: please send to your TA and also cc me. Please send in MSWord or in a format easily convertible to MSWord (e.g., plain text, HTML, RTF).

All assignments will be available on-line before they are due (hopefully well before).

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.
Texts


The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine. Readings not from texts on the above list are available on e-reserve.

Readings

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

I. Background: Aristotelian Metaphysics

Thurs., Jan. 7: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Tues., Jan. 12: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). ME #1 due.


II. Descartes

Tues., Jan. 19: 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., Jan. 21: *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9). No ME due.

Tues., Jan. 26: 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., Jan. 28: 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., Feb. 2: *Third and Fifth Meditations* (pp. 86–98; 105–110) and **first paper** due. No ME due.

Thurs., Feb. 4: *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. (Note: ME #6 is slightly longer and includes questions covering the previous two readings.)

Tues., Feb. 9: *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., Feb. 11: 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”). (Readings from this text will be available on e-reserve) ME #8 due.


Thurs., Feb. 18: *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 #10 due.


Thurs., Feb. 25: 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 #12 due.
IV. Leibniz


Tues., Mar. 9: 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). No ME due.


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2Clarke’s replies are not in your book; they are available on e-reserve.
3The symbol § stands for “section.”
Timeline

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

399 B.C.  Death of Socrates  –  347 B.C.  Death of Plato
322 B.C.  Death of Aristotle  ●
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

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

1781  Publ. of Critique of Pure Reason (1st ed.)

1037  Death of Avicenna

1274  Death of St. Thomas Aquinas

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

1789  French Revolution

2009  Now  –

5