

Phil 100B: The Rationalists

Winter 2011

Tue. and Thurs., 6–7:45pm, Thiman 1.

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu¹)

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Office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 11am–noon, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Tim Brown (tebrown@ucsc.edu).

Sections: Wed. 9:30am; Wed. 12:30pm (both in Cowell 222).

Orville Canter (ocanter@ucsc.edu).

Sections: Tues. 2pm; Wed. 2pm (both in Cowell 222).

Andrew Delunas (adelunas@ucsc.edu).

Sections: Tues. 12 noon; Fri. 11am (both in 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. 11; Sun., Jan. 16;² Tues., Jan. 18; Tues., Jan. 25; Thurs., Jan. 27; Thurs., Feb. 3; Tues., Feb. 8; Thurs., Feb. 10; Tues., Feb. 15; Thurs., Feb. 17; Thurs., Feb. 24; Tues., Mar. 1; Thurs., Mar. 10.)

Two short papers (2–3 pages), due Tues., Feb. 1 and Tues., Feb. 22 (approximately 15% each).

One longer paper (6–8 pages) (approximately 30%). The paper is due Wed., Mar. 16, 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

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.

²Originally due Thurs., Jan. 13.

Tues., Mar. 8. Your TA will send this back to you as soon as possible with 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-).

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). The first ME will be handed out in class as a hard copy (also available on-line) and handed back in the following class. Subsequent ME's will be run by an on-line system; please check your UCSC e-mail for details.

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

Texts

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

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

Spinoza, *The Ethics, Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect, and Selected Letters*, tr. S. Shirley, ed. S. Feldman (Hackett).

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

Readings

Tues., Jan. 4: (no reading, first class).

I. Background: Aristotelian Metaphysics

Thurs., Jan. 6: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).

Tues., Jan. 11: selections from Aristotle and Porphyry (on the predicables and the categories). ME #1 due.

Thurs., Jan. 13: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, Avicenna, and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident).

Sun., Jan. 16: ME #2 due (originally due Thurs., Jan. 13).

II. Descartes

Tues., Jan. 18: 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. 20: *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9). No ME due.

Tues., Jan. 25: 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. 27: 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. 1: *Third and Fifth Meditations* (pp. 86–98; 105–110). **First paper due.** No ME due.

Thurs., Feb. 3: *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. 8: *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. 10: 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 ecommons.) ME #8 due.

Tues., Feb. 15: *Ethics*, I, Prop. 16 through end (pp. 43–62). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 101–4 (ending “its meaning concerning them”). ME #9 due.

Thurs., Feb. 17: *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.

Tues., Feb. 22: Spinoza, *Ethics*, II, Prop. 19 to end (pp. 80–101). *Theologico-Political Treatise*, pp. 117–119. **Second paper due.** No ME due.

Thurs., Feb. 24: 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.

IV. Leibniz

Tues., Mar. 1: 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;³ “A Specimen of Dynamics,” first two paragraphs (pp. 118–19); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” §§⁴ 8–12, 24, 26–8, 33 (pp. 40–44, 56–7, 58–60, 64–5). ME #12 due.

Thurs., Mar. 3: “A New System of Nature,” remaining part (pp. 139–45); “Monadology,” §§1–61 (pp. 213–21). No ME due.

Tues., Mar. 8: 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.

Thurs., Mar. 10: “Dialogue on Human Freedom,” pp. 111–17; letter to Coste (pp. 193–6); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” §§13–16, 19–20, 30–32, 35–7 (pp. 44–9, 52–3, 60–64, 66–8); “Monadology,” §§82–end (pp. 223–5). ME #13 due.

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

³Clarke’s replies are not in your book; they are available on ecommons.

⁴The symbol § stands for “section.”

Timeline

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

