

Schedule of Lecture Topics, Readings, and Dates for Papers and Examinations

Note: if a reading is listed for a particular date, that's the date on which you must have the reading done!

Week Topic, (Reading)

Week #1

Aug. 22 (1) Introduction, (2) syllabus, (3-16) some historical, cultural and intellectual background concerning the early modern period (1620-1796) (List of philosophers)

Aug. 24 Why study the history of modern philosophy? Background to the *Meditations*: (1) mechanism vs. teleology; (2) Geometry of Matter vs. Rich Phenomenal Life World; (3) the Mathesis Universalis; (4) the 'frameworks clash' in *The Meditations*; (5) short refresher on validity and soundness (No readings--Logic Handout; History handout)

PART I: RATIONALISM

Aug. 26 Meditation 1: The quest for certainty, methodological skepticism, and the critique of common sense. (READINGS: **Meditation I**; OBJREP.ZIP 63-67)

Week #2

Aug. 29 Meditation 2: The cogito and the nature of the ego. (READINGS: **Meditation II**; OBJREP.ZIP 68-77; **First Reading Summary Due/Group 1 Reading Report Due**)

Aug. 31 Med. 2 continued: the wax, Descartes' truth criterion and the role of rational intuition in applying it; Background for Meditation 3: Descartes' taxonomy of ideas, the distinction between objective and formal reality, and the grades of being. (READINGS: **Meditation II continued**; Handout #1—SAVE THE HANDOUTS!)

Sep. 2 Meditation 3: Stepping through Descartes's proof for God's existence from the nature of ideas. (READINGS: **Meditation III** (OBJREP.ZIP 78-89; plus Handout #2 & 2Suppl)

Week #3

Sep. 5 Labor Day (no class)

Sep. 7 Meditation 3 continued: Criticism of Med. III proof, Other Proofs, the Cartesian Circle. (bring Handouts 2 & 2Suppl with you)

Sep. 9 Meditation 4: Why God isn't a deceiver; how error is possible. (READINGS: **Meditation IV**; OBJREP.ZIP 90-94; **Second Reading Summary Due; Group 2 Report Due**)

I have revised the schedule after this....there will be some repetition of the reading assignments from week #3 in week #4. This should be easy to follow, and for those who already did the reading, easy to accomplish!

Week #4

- Sep. 12 Meditation 3: Stepping through Descartes's proof for God's existence from the nature of ideas. Criticism of Med. III proof, Other Proofs, the Cartesian Circle. (READINGS: **Meditation III** (OBJREP.ZIP 78-89; plus Handout #2 & 2Suppl))
- Sep. 14 Meditation 4: Why God isn't a deceiver; how error is possible. (READINGS: **Meditation IV**; OBJREP.ZIP 90-94; **Second Reading Summary Due; Group 2 Report Due**)
- Sep. 16 Meditation 4 cont'd/Meditation 5: The nature of the external world, Descartes's Med. 5 "ontological" proof for God's existence, and the role of Med. 5 in preparing for Med. 6's proof for the existence of an External World (EW). (READINGS: **Meditation V**; OBJREP.ZIP 95-106)

Week #5

- Sep. 19 Meditation 6: The existence of the external world and the mind-body problem. (READINGS: **Meditation VI**; OBJREP.ZIP 107-115; **Third Reading [on Meditation VI] Summary; Group 3 Report Due**)
- Sep. 21 Meditation 6 cont'd: wrapping up Descartes. Intro to Leibniz's world: The Monadology. (READINGS: **Simon Sparks' translation of *Monadology*, paragraphs 1 through 38**; Handout #3)
- Sep. 23 More on Leibniz's world (no new readings)

****First Paper Topics Available on Web/CU Learn.****

Week #6

- Sep. 26 Leibniz' most famous argument: The actual world is the best of all possible worlds! PLUS: You ain't nothing but a Pangloss: Critical analysis of Leibniz's argument. (READINGS: **Simon Sparks' translation of *Monadology*, paragraphs 39 through the end. Fourth Reading Summary; Group 4 Report Due**; Handout #4)

PART II: EMPIRICISM

- Sep. 28 Introduction to Locke. Locke against innate ideas. (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Book I, Chapter II, §1-9, 12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-22, 24)
- Sep. 30 More on Locke against innate ideas; Locke on acquired ideas and mental powers. (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Book II, Chapter I, §1-9 inclusive; Book II, Chapter II, §1-3, Chapter III, §1-2, Chapter IV, §1-6, Chapter V, intro; Chapter VI, §1-2)

Week #7

- Oct. 3 Locke on acquired complex and general ideas, and the process of abstraction. (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Chapter IX, §8-12; Chapter X, §1-2, Chapter XI, §1, 4, 6, 8-11, 15, 17; Chapter XII, §1-8; Chapter XXII, §1-5; **Fifth Reading Summary; Group 5 Report Due**)
- Oct. 5 Locke on acquired ideas and mental powers. (no new readings; Handout #5)
- Oct. 7 Locke on primary and secondary qualities and ideas of each: their origins and significance (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Book II, Chapter VIII, §7-26)

Week #8

- Oct. 10 Locke on the source of the ordinary complex idea of an individual substance (e.g., ideas of particular bodies [*that apple*] or particular spirits [*his mind*]), and of the general, metaphysical concept of Substance (material or immaterial) (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Chapter XXIII, §1-12, 14-20, 22-23, 25, 28, 30-37; **Sixth Reading Summary; Group 6 Report Due**)
- Oct. 12 Locke on consciousness and personal identity (READINGS: Locke's *Essay*, Book II, Chapter I, §10-14, 19-20, 23-25; Chapter XXVII, §1-29)
- Oct. 14 Wrapping up Locke; Introduction to Hume's revisionary empiricism: "mental geography" and theory of ideas. (READINGS: Hume's *Enquiry*, Author's Advertisement, Section I)

Week #9

- Oct. 17 Hume's theory of ideas and the principle of association (*Enquiry*, Sections II & III; **Seventh Reading Summary; Group 7 Report Due**)

Oct. 19 Hume's theory of judgment (two kinds: matters of fact and relations of ideas) and associated critique of the idea of a causal relationship (READINGS: *Enquiry*, Section IV, Parts I & II; Handout #6a)

Oct. 21 Hume's positive account of the idea of a causal relationship (his solution to the problem identified in Section IV); (READINGS: *Enquiry*, Section V, Parts I & II, Section VI)

Week #10

Oct. 24 Hume's account of the origins of the idea of a necessary connection among perceptions and final resolution of the skeptical challenge to beliefs based on perception (i.e., *matter of fact judgments*) (READINGS: *Enquiry*, Section VII, Parts I & II. **Eighth Reading Summary; Group 8 Report Due**)

****First Paper Due****

Oct. 26 Critical analysis of Hume's theory of causation. (no new readings)

Oct. 28 Hume on the Problem of Induction (no new readings; Handout #6b)

****Second Paper Topics Available On Web/CU Learn****

Week #11

Oct. 31 How Hume became a skeptic about the external world (no new readings)

Nov. 2 Finishing Hume: mitigated skepticism and the 'common life'; Introduction to Berkeley's extreme reaction to Locke, known as Phenomenalism or Berkeleyan Idealism (READINGS: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, First Dialogue. **Ninth Reading Summary; Group 9 Report Due**)

Nov. 4 Berkeley on material substance: are there mind-independent bodies in space? (READINGS: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Second Dialogue)

Week #12

Nov. 7 Berkeley on existence: *esse is percipi*; if so, how is a *persisting world possible*? (READINGS: Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Third Dialogue)

Nov. 9 Berkeley on abstraction; critical analysis of Berkeley's idealism (same readings)

PART III: BEYOND RATIONALISM AND EMPIRICISM

Nov. 11 The Old problem of Objectivity: Kant's Copernican revolution and the reconciliation of rationalism and empiricism and the New problem of Objectivity. (READINGS: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason [CPR]*, Preface and Introduction; Handouts #7-#8)

Week #13

Nov. 14 The Strategy of the *Critique of Pure Reason* (no new readings)

Nov. 16 The CPR's *Transcendental Aesthetic* and transcendental idealism: Kant's revolutionary account of the nature of space and of perception generally. (READINGS: Kant's *CPR*, *The Transcendental Aesthetic* "On Space"; **Tenth Reading Summary; Group 10 Report Due**)

Nov. 18 Kant's equally revolutionary account of the nature of time and perceptions of time (READINGS: Kant's *CPR*, *The Transcendental Aesthetic* "On Time")

Week #14

Nov. 21 Fall Break (no classes)

Nov. 23 Fall Break (no classes)

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving (no classes)

Week #15

Nov. 28 From the *Transcendental Aesthetic* to The Refutation of Idealism: Kant's reply to Descartes and Berkeley. (no new readings)

Nov. 30 How Kant gets from the *forms of intuition* to the *forms of judgment* and how each constitutes the structure

of *experience* (i.e., “interpreted perception”) (no new readings)

Dec. 2 The Transcendental Deduction. (READINGS: *CPR*, The Transcendental Deduction [parts thereof...*to be announced*])

****Second Papers Due****

Week #16

Dec. 5 Transcendental Deduction cont'd (no new readings)

Dec. 7 The Second Analogy: Kant's reply to Hume. (READINGS: *CPR*, The Second Analogy)

Dec. 9 LAST DAY OF CLASS: Special Review Session for Final Exam.

Dec. 11 Take- See Schedule of Lecture Topics home Exam distributed via CU Learn.

Dec. 14 Final Exam due 1:30 p.m. HLMS 177, followed by ... CAKE PARTY!