Course Syllabus

(Note: Syllabus is subject to change, either verbally or in written form. Students should note any and all changes as they occur.)

Course: Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
NBR: 3317—A (1496)
TuTh 11:00 pm – 12:15 pm
Room: Malloy 025
Samuel B. Condic, PhD
Email: condics@stthom.edu
Phone: 713-525-3591 (Valerie Hall – Admin. Asst.)
Office: Sullivan 105
Office Hours: TBD and By appointment

Fall 2015

Course Description

A study of the rise of secular views of knowledge, ethics and politics as discussed by such philosophers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Descartes, Locke, Rousseau and Hume.

Abstract

Modern philosophy hallmarked by a distinct break with the ancient and scholastic traditions which preceded it. The break is effected by a wide range of factors, including the rise of the “new science”, the Reformation, the transformation of political institutions, the discovery of the new world, and the rise of the middle class. This class will examine the major historical figures of the modern era, from Hobbes through Hegel.

Course Outcomes:

1. Understand the basic elements of the modern philosophers studied.
2. Compare and contrast with ancient and scholastic positions, where relevant.
3. Critique the modern position, in light of a broader philosophical understanding.

UST DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

If you have a disability and need a special accommodation, please first contact the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (713) 525-2169, Crooker Center - Second Floor, and then discuss the accommodation with the instructor. This must be done before the first grading event.

Course Format

This course will emphasize both lecture and reading. Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to maintain the reading schedule. Not all readings will be lectured on, but all readings are possible testing material.

Texts and Resource Materials

Parker, Francis H. The Story of Western Philosophy
Kenny, Anthony. A New History of Western Philosophy—Volume 3: The Rise of Modern Philosophy
Gilson, Etienne. The Unity of Philosophical Experience

Attendance

Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. Unexcused absences can have an adverse effect on your grade. Meet with the professor if an excused absence is required.

Methods for Evaluation and Grading

Exam #1 30%
Exam #2 30%
Class Participation 20%
Term Paper 20%

“Class Participation” will include at least 3 class assignments, which may include quizzes, take-home examinations or short essays. Details will be provided with the assignments. “Term Paper” details to follow.
Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned following the Grading System as specified in the current UST Course Catalog, p. 71. Exams and other work will be graded on a percentage system. Percentages will be averaged at the end of the semester according to the weighting scheme (see above), rounded to the nearest full percentage, and converted to grade points as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 95</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>94 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>89 – 87</td>
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<td>86 – 84</td>
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<td>83 – 80</td>
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<td>79 – 77</td>
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<td>73 – 70</td>
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<td>66 – 60</td>
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<td>59 – 0</td>
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Assignment & Exam Policies:

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted without a reasonable excuse. Arriving late to class after an assignment has been collected constitutes “being late.” “Reasonable excuse” is completely and entirely defined by the judgment of the instructor. A penalty may be assessed on late work. Penalties may vary by assignment and student, depending on the reasonableness of the excuse.

Make-Up Exams

Exams are given on the day scheduled. Exams must be taken in the section in which you are enrolled. With the exception of school-sponsored activities, make-up exams are granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a make-up exam is granted, a one letter grade penalty is automatically assessed. Schedule holiday travel accordingly.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are not generally provided. If extra credit opportunities do arise, they will be made available to all students according to an impartial and objective criteria.

Cheating

If you cheat, even a little bit, you will flunk the course and be reported to the appropriate administrative authorities. If you are not clear on what exactly constitutes cheating, refer to the Policy on Academic Integrity in the UST Course Catalog p. 77 and/or ask the professor before you do it.

Plagiarism

Cheating includes plagiarism, i.e., representing someone else’s work (words or ideas) as though they were your own. A more detailed description of plagiarism is available in the 2005-2006 UHCL Course Catalog, p. 77. Specifically and in addition, if you use reference materials, including websites, in any of your work, you MUST provide a reference to that source. If you do not, then you are guilty of plagiarism, which is a species of cheating, and is subject to the penalties spelled out in the “Cheating” section of this syllabus (see above). If you are not clear on whether or what sort of reference is required, ask the professor.

Course Outline (Note: Outline subject to change pending progression of course. Exams will be scheduled during Mid-Term and Finals weeks.)

Modern Philosophy

I. Overview of Methods

Parker: 3-10; 314-321
Adler: 435-445
Gilson: 241-257
Kenny: 11-14

II. Efficient Causes of Modern Philosophy

Shift in the Four Causes
Parker: 159-166
Kenny: 1-26
“Pre-Cartesian” Modern Philosophy

a. Bacon
i. Parker: 166-170
ii. Kenny: 26-32

b. Hobbes
i. Parker: 170-174
ii. Kenny: 41-47; 127-131

IV. Descartes and Continental Rationalism:

a. Introductory Materials
i. Kenny: 33-41
ii. Parker: 177

b. Cartesian Method
i. Kenny: 117-121
ii. Parker 178-180

c. Self, God & Matter
i. Parker: 180-195
ii. Kenny: 121-127; 305-307
iii. Descartes, René. *Meditations* I-VI; (Available, e.g., at: http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/)

iv. Mind and Body
Parker: 195-201
Kenny: 212-223

V. Post-Cartesian Rationalism

a. Pascal
i. Parker: 202-204
ii. Kenny: 53-57

b. Occasionalism
i. Parker: 205-205
ii. Kenny: 58-61

c. Spinoza
i. Parker: 205-218
ii. Kenny: 61-70; 227-231; 258-261; 308-312

d. Leibniz
i. Parker: 218-227
ii. Kenny: 70-76; 231-235

e. Summary
i. Parker: 227-229
VI. Locke

a. Introductory Materials
   i. Kenny: 49-53

b. Epistemology
   i. Parker: 230-239
   ii. Kenny: 131-137; 223-227

c. Metaphysics
   i. Parker: 239-241
   ii. Kenny: 187-193

d. Political Philosophy
   i. Parker: 241-242
   ii. Kenny: 290-293

VII. Berkeley

a. Parker: 243-250
b. Kenny: 76-79; 146-150; 199-204; 315-317

VIII. Hume

a. Introductory materials
   i. Kenny: 80-86

b. Epistemology
   i. Parker: 250-252
   ii. Kenny: 151-156

c. Causality
   i. Parker: 253-258
   ii. Kenny: 204-207; 235-240

d. Ethics and God
   i. Parker: 258-265
   ii. Kenny: 261-263, 317-323

IX. Kant

a. Introductory Materials
   i. Kenny: 100-108

b. Epistemology and Metaphysics
   i. Parker: 266-284
   ii. Kenny: 156-164

c. Ethics and God
   i. Parker: 285-295
   ii. Kenny: 264-267; 323-329
X. Post-Kantian German Philosophy
   a. Fichte and Schelling
      i. Parker: 296-301
      ii. Kenny: 108-111
   b. Hegel
      i. Parker: 301-313
      ii. Kenny: 111-116; 267-272; 300-302; 329-331

XI. Dénouement
   a. Gilson: 218-237