Philosophy 3317-A: Modern Philosophy

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX
Spring 2017
Monday, Wednesday, 3:10-4:25

Instructor: Dr. Shannon Holzer
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Course Description: A study of the rise of secular views of knowledge, ethics and politics as discussed by such philosophers as Hobbes, Descartes, Locke, Mill, Kant, Rousseau and Hume. Prerequisites: PHIL 1315/3315 and PHIL 2316/3316 or PHIL 1311, 2314, 3313.

Required Texts:

Further texts will be placed on blackboard.

Technology policy: There will be no use of technology in the classroom. Note taking is to be done by hand, and cell phones are to be on silent and stowed away. If you are expecting an important call, let me know and I may make an exception.

Grading: The following components are that which will make up your grade:

Weekly quizzes- These will either be in class or on blackboard. They will cover the reading assignments 15%

Midterm exam- This is cumulative. It covers both lectures and reading assignments. 20%

Final exam- This is cumulative. It covers all material from the beginning of the course. 30%

Paper- The topic and requirements of the paper will be discussed in class. 25%

Attendance/ Participation- Attendance is required. If you are not in class, then you are also not participating. Participation is not mere attendance. It requires interaction with the class and material. Philosophy is something one learns by doing it. Attitude will affect your participation grade. Disrespect
towards the course, other students, or professor will negatively affect your participation grade. Respectful engagement will result in a higher participation grade. 10%

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.