

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline
Philosophy 2202G: Early Modern Philosophy

Winter 2018/19
MWF 12:30-1:30
Classroom: P&AB 106

Instructor: Corey W. Dyck
StH 4138, Office Hours MW 1:30-2:30
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DESCRIPTION

The early Modern period (roughly 1600-1800) was an intellectually rich and immensely influential chapter in the history of philosophy. In this course, we will survey some of its key figures and ideas. We will consider issues in metaphysics (materialism, the nature of substance, accounts of causality, personality and immortality), epistemology (the challenge of skepticism, whether any ideas are innate), natural theology (proofs of God's existence), the philosophy of mind (the nature and extent of consciousness, the relation of mind to body), and innovations in political philosophy (social contract theory).

TEXT

Descartes, *Meditations*

Other texts covered in the course will be available online, through the OWL page.

OBJECTIVES

Students completing this course successfully will:

- (1) be familiar with many of the principal themes and arguments of the philosophers of the early Modern period
- (2) have demonstrated an ability to comprehend and reflect upon complex philosophical arguments,
- (3) be able to write a longer argumentative paper exhibiting advanced researching and critical skills.

REQUIREMENTS

Student grades will be determined through a mix of short written assignments and in-class quizzes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at

<http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams,

participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>
Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>
Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TBA