

Modern Philosophy

PHIL 333 I

Instructor Information

Instructor

Dr. Justin Morton

Email

jmorton@uttyler.com

Office Hours

Tues/Thurs. 11 AM – 12:30 PM
And by appointment

Office: Arts and Sciences 113

Phone number (office):

General Information

Catalog Description

A study of the main issues and movements in philosophy from the seventeenth century through the 20th Century.

Description of Course Content

Modern Philosophy was in many ways an overturning of Aristotelian Scholasticism. In this course, we'll cover ways that overturning happened, working through the material thematically. We'll spend a little bit of time covering the basics of Aristotle's relevant thought, before launching into themes of metaphysics (to include foundations of physics), political philosophy, epistemology, and philosophy of religion. We'll read only primary sources, from thinkers like Descartes, Spinoza, Hobbes, and Leibniz.

Course Objectives

- Understand the major debates animating Modern Philosophy
- Be able to construct and evaluate arguments for positions within those debates

Course Materials

Required Materials

- Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (eds.), *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, 3rd edition
 - ISBN: 978-1-62466-805-0

All other materials will be made available on Canvas

Course Schedule

Note: All readings outside this text are marked with an asterisk (*) and will be provided on Canvas.

Week	Topic	Readings and Major Assignments
Week 1	Unit 1: Introduction Introduction and Syllabus/ Aristotelian Background	*Selection from Aristotle
Week 2	Unit 1: Introduction Aristotelian Background	*Selection from Aristotle *Selection from Nietzsche
Week 3	Unit 2: Metaphysics The Mechanistic Philosophy	Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , parts 1, 2, and 5 Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , selections from Part I Galileo, <i>The Assayer</i> , “Corpuscularianism” Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Book 2, Chapter 8 Boyle, <i>Of the Excellency and Grounds of the Corpuscular or Mechanical Philosophy</i> *Descartes, selection from the <i>Principles of Philosophy</i>
Week 4	Unit 2: Metaphysics Philosophy of Mind	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Meditation 6 Elizabeth and Descartes, <i>Correspondence</i> Leibniz, <i>The Principles of Philosophy, or the Monadology</i> , sections 1-30 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Part I, Chs. 1-2
Week 5	Unit 2: Metaphysics Philosophy of Mind	Leibniz, <i>The Principles of Philosophy, or the Monadology</i> , sections 1-30 Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Part I, Chs. 1-2
Week 6	Unit 3: Political Philosophy	*Hobbes, selection from <i>Leviathan</i>
Week 7	Unit 3: Political Philosophy	*Locke, selection from <i>Second Treatise of Government</i>

Week	Topic	Readings and Major Assignments
Week 8	Unit 3: Political Philosophy	*Rousseau, selection
Week 9	Midterm	No Reading
Week 10	Unit 4: Epistemology	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Meditations 1&2
Week 11	Unit 4: Epistemology	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selections Berkeley, <i>Principles of Human Knowledge</i> , selections
Week 12	Unit 4: Epistemology	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selections
Week 13	Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Meditation 3
Week 14	Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion	Hume, selection from <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>
Week 15	Final Exam	No reading

Evaluation

Midterm | 25%

Final Exam | 30%

Group Class-Starter | 15%

Reading-Questions | 15%

Attendance and Participation | 15%

Final Exam and Midterm. These will be writing-intensive in-class blue book exams.

Group Class-Starter. Your group will study the day's text and start class with a brief summary of a particular passage, and end with a question (or questions) for discussion.

Reading Questions. You will submit a well-informed question about the day's reading at the start of class. (These cannot be written while sitting in class—they must have been prepared ahead of time.) They will be graded on whether they show an informed engagement with the text.

Attendance and Participation. Class can't function without active participation. Come having read the text and be ready to: ask questions, submit/evaluation interpretations, argue for/against the author's thesis/support, etc.

Grading Scale

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 0-59%

Course Policies

AI Use

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the

work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Attendance

Attendance is required. See me if you plan on missing class, ahead of time.

Communication Policy

I communicate outside of class primarily over email. I will reply to emails within 48 hours (not counting weekends/holidays). Sometimes an email slips through the cracks—I get a lot of email. If you haven't gotten a reply in this timeframe, you will not offend me by politely sending another reminder email.

Makeup exams

Exams can be made up in this course only in the rarest of circumstances, involving documented emergencies. This is because each exam will open with ample time to complete it in the case of foreseeable events. (I.e., you will always have multiple days in which to take the exam.)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. In cases where it occurs, penalties may range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. You will also be turned in to UT-Tyler's Office of Student Conduct and Intervention, and the university will assess further penalties. You are responsible for knowing what counts as plagiarism, and penalties will be assessed regardless of intent.

Late Submissions

No assignments can be submitted late; if you cannot make an exam, see me and be able to provide documentation of your excuse.