Course: PHIL320, History of Modern Philosophy

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Duke 241

Office Hours:
MW 2:00-4:00 PM
Other times by appointment

Course Description: A study of the major thinkers and ideas in the history of Western philosophy from the fragmentation of the medieval consensus to the end of the 18th century.

Course student learning outcomes: a student will be able to
1. explain the major concepts and the context of influential thinkers in Western philosophy from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries.
2. describe the development of significant concepts from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries.
3. show how the thoughts of these influential philosophers have influenced later thinkers.

The following table connects the course and the department of Philosophy student learning outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Philosophy Student Learning Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>explain the major concepts and the context of influential thinkers in Western philosophy from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries</td>
<td>Identify and critique key figures and themes in the history of philosophy, especially from the perspective of those marginalized by this history</td>
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</table>
| describe the development of significant concepts from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries | Formulate philosophical questions with precision and clarity
Demonstrate continual intellectual growth through personal research and scholarship |
| show how the thoughts of these influential philosophers have influenced later thinkers | Identify and critique key figures and themes in the history of philosophy, especially from the perspective of those marginalized by this history
Critically analyze societal problems and |
The following table identifies evaluation objectives and assignments that will be used to assess student mastery of these objectives:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>IDEA Objective</th>
<th>Assignments Used to Assess</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories</td>
<td>reading reports, class discussion of readings, exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
<td>class discussion, paper, exams</td>
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Requirements:

1. Reading:
   a. Anthony Kenny, *The Rise of Modern Philosophy*, vol. 3 of *A New History of Western Philosophy* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2006). These readings will introduce you to the philosopher, provide you with an awareness of the cultural context to which his/her philosophy responded, and provide you with a summary of the philosopher’s important ideas.
   b. writings of the specific philosophers accessed from the website by Jonathan Bennett, “Some Texts from Early Modern Philosophy” accessed at http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/. Reading texts from the major philosophers of this period exposes you to the actual writings of the philosophers so that you can understand in greater detail what they said and so that you can evaluate the accuracy of Kenny. Your preparation for class discussion should enable you to:
      1. identify quotes expressing the main point of the selection,
      2. point out how the ideas build upon previous thought,
      3. recognize how the ideas challenge previous thought,
      4. relate the ideas to your own experiences.
   c. occasional additional readings announced in class.

2. Daily reading affidavits:
   a. a signed affidavit: “This attests that I have prepared for this class session by carefully reading today’s entire assignment” and a question generated from the reading(s) to be discussed in class.
   b. the affidavit may be submitted electronically if sent by 12:30 PM on the day of class or in hard copy prior to the start of class. No credit will be given for affidavits submitted electronically after 12:30 PM or hard copy after the start of class at 1:00 PM.
   c. appropriate questions will relate to the nature of concepts discussed in the reading, the adequacy of those concepts, the relation of those
concepts to concepts studied earlier in the course, or the significance of those concepts for contemporary thought.

d. the total points possible for daily reading affidavits will be 150 with the actually points determined by the percentage of affidavits submitted by the deadlines.

e. daily reading assignments will be announced at the start of the class prior to when the affidavit will be due and on the eCompanion site for the PHIL 320 History of Modern Philosophy.

3. Three exams on Feb. 11, Mar. 25, and May 6 for a total value of 150 points.

4. Fully documented research paper tracing the development of a philosophical concept in the thought of three philosophers who lived between the Renaissance and the end of the eighteenth century.

a. format:
   1. type-written with numbered pages.
   2. 10-12 pp. in length.
   3. adequately documented for both evidence to support claims and acknowledgement of sources of ideas.

b. components and due dates:
   1. statement identifying the concept whose development will be traced and the three philosophers whose thought will be examined (10 pts.). Jan. 30
   2. development of concept by first and second philosopher evaluated according to the understanding of the concept and description of the development of the concept from the first to the second philosopher (20 pts.). Apr. 3
   3. final, completed copy (100 pts.) Apr. 29

c. evaluated for:
   1. evidence of comparisons regarding concept,
   2. accuracy of presentation of philosophers covered,
   3. clarity of expression,
   4. grammatical and mechanical adequacy.

Recommendations:

1. Read chapters in Gaarder, *Sophie’s World*, in conjunction with the philosopher being studied. These readings will give you an overview of each philosopher and provide you with examples of how a philosopher’s ideas relate to your own experiences.

2. Use the eCompanion site for History of Modern Philosophy for:
   a. Daily reading assignments
   b. Opportunities to carry on discussion after each class session.
      1. comment on the application of an idea from class.
      2. respond to some one else’s comment.
      3. 2 points will be given for each comment or response up to a total of 20 points.
a. comments must be made within 2 class periods in order to receive credit.
b. responses to someone else must be made within 1 week of the original comment in order to receive credit.

Policies:
1. Grading: final grade is based on % of 430 total points with class participation used to decide borderline situations.

2. Attendance:
   a. When any absence occurs, the instructor must be informed before the absence. If possible, all work that will be missed must be turned in before the absence.
   b. Students are responsible for all assignments and materials given during their absence.
   c. Being tardy will equal 1/2 absence except in the case of being tardy for an exam. After 5 min. from the start of class, each minute late will result in a point/minute deduction from the final score on the exam.
   c. More than 3 unnecessary absences will result in a 10% reduction of total points for each day missed.

3. Paper assignments:
   a. Due at the beginning of the class period. Papers submitted after the start of the class period will be penalized 5 pts. per calendar day late.
   b. Must be grammatically acceptable, legible, and in the proper format. More than three grammatical errors on any paper will make it necessary to correct the assignment.

4. Students with disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent her/him from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure her/his full participation and successful completion of course requirements.