AS 150.4XX Early Modern Philosophy

XX 20XX

Instructor:	Fergus Horan	**Time:**	2x Weekly, TBD
Email:	fhoran3@jh.edu	**Location:**	TBD
Discussion Hours:	TBD	**Term:**	XX 20XX

Course Description

The rapid advancement of science in the seventeenth century led to a flurry of philosophical questions that remain pressing into the present. In this course, we will look at how philosophers in this period wrestled with two main questions: what is the mind, and what is the basis of empirical science? We begin with Descartes, before turning to philosophers including Cavendish, Amo, Locke, Hume, and Shepherd.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be:

- Able to engage with and compare texts from the early modern period.
- Discuss different interpretations of philosophers.
- Able to deconstruct and construct philosophical arguments.

Assessment

- **Weekly in-class paragraphs – 10%**

  Every week, we will begin one of our sessions by writing for 10 minutes a brief response to one of the readings.

- **Class participation – 10%**

  Students are expected to participate in class by asking questions, and doing so will lead to a participation grade based on participation across the course.

- **Midterm Exam – 40%**

  The midterm exam is an essay in three parts. Students are expected to present a position held by Descartes, how one of the philosophers we have read would respond to this position of Descartes', and how Descartes would respond.

- **Final Exam – 40%**

  The final exam will be paper. Prompts will be given, and students are expected to reconstruct a position held by a philosopher we have studied in the second half of the course, consider an objection to this position, and how the philosopher would respond.

Academic Integrity

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. For this course, possible ethical violations include plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration on term papers.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student conduct, or designee, by calling the Office of the Dean of Students at 410-516-8208 or via email at studentconduct@jhu.edu.

If you are unsure about whether a particular act counts as plagiarism, please feel free to discuss this with the instructor.

Accommodations

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students. Students with disabilities, including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions, and temporary disabilities, can request accommodations for this course by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this course as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements.

For further information or to start the process of requesting accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at Homewood Campus, Shaffer Hall #101, call 410-516-4720, email studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu, or visit the website: https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/disabilities/.

If you anticipate needing accommodations for religious reasons, including time off for religious holidays, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

You are welcome to bring a person under your care, such as a child, to class on occasional days when your responsibilities require it, for example, if emergency child care is unavailable, or for health needs of a relative.

Anxiety, Stress, and Mental Health

If you are struggling with anxiety, stress, depression, or other mental health-related concerns, please consider visiting the JHU Counseling Center. If you are concerned about a friend, please encourage that person to seek out their services. The Counseling Center is located at 3003 North Charles Street in Suite S-200 and can be reached at 410-516-8278 and online at http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/.

Class Climate

I am committed to creating a classroom environment that values the freedom of speech, diversity of experiences, and perspectives that all students bring. Everyone here has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, while expressing their views. I believe fostering

a free and inclusive climate is important because research and my experience show that students who interact with peers who are different from themselves learn new things and experience tangible educational outcomes.

If you ever have concerns in this course about harassment, discrimination, or any unequal treatment, or if you seek accommodations or resources, I invite you to share directly with the instructor. I promise that we will take your communication seriously and seek mutually acceptable resolutions and accommodations. Reporting will never impact your course grade. You may also share concerns with the department chair, Steven Gross, sgross11@jh.edu; the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Hilary Bok, hbok@jh.edu; the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Darlene Saporu, dsaporu@jhu.edu; or the Office of Institutional Equity, oie@jhu.edu.

In handling reports, people will protect your privacy as much as possible, but faculty and staff are required to officially report information for some cases, e.g. sexual harassment.

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Schedule and Readings

IMPORTANT: On editions in philosophy. The texts we are studying are old, and have been published and republished several times across different languages. It is important that we stick to the same versions of the text, all of which are contained within our anthology or available on Canvas. The anthology we are using is

***Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, trans. Paul Carus and Eric Watkins, 3rd ed. (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2019).**

Note the 3rd ed. there. Older versions of the anthology have different texts, so it is essential that you get this one.

Part I: The Mind and the Body

1. Descartes I

1. René Descartes' *Meditations* Introduction and First Meditation, (Ariew and Watkins 35-43) (8pgs)
2. *Meditations* Second Meditation (Ariew and Watkins 43-47) (4pgs)

2. Descartes II

1. *Meditations* Third Meditation (Ariew and Watkins 47-54) (7pgs)
2. *Meditations* Fourth Meditation (Ariew and Watkins 54-58) (4pgs)

3. Descartes III

1. *Meditations* Fifth Meditation (Ariew and Watkins 58-61) (3pgs)
2. *Meditations* Sixth Meditation (Ariew and Watkins 61-68) (7pgs)

4. Mind-Body Interaction

1. Elisabeth of Bohemia and Descartes' Correspondence (Ariew and Watkins 93-99) (6pgs)
2. Anto Wilhemlm Amo's *Dissertation* (Ariew and Watkins 332-334, additional passages on Canvas) (10pgs)

5. Materialism I

1. Thomas Hobbes' Reply to Descartes (Ariew and Watkins 76-82) (6pgs) and *Leviathan* Ch1-4 (Ariew and Watkins 122-131) (9pgs)
2. Margaret Cavendish's *Letters* 30-42 (Ariew and Watkins 143-153) (10pgs)

6. Materialism II

1. Anne Conway's *The Principles* Ch8-9 (Ariew and Watkins 154-164) (10pgs)
2. **EXAM 1**

Part II: Causes and Knowledge

7. The Principle of Sufficient Reason

1. *Leibniz-Clarke Correspondence* (Ariew and Watkins 322-331, additional passages on Canvas) (14 pages)

2. Émilie du Châtelet's *Foundations of Physics* Preface, Ch1, Ch5 (Ariew and Watkins 709-718) (9 pages)

8. Locke I

1. John Locke's *Essay* Book I. ChI, ChII, Book II. Ch I (Ariew and Watkins 346-358) (12 pgs)
2. *Essay* Ch II-XIV (Watkins and Ariew 358-378) (20pgs)

9. Locke II

1. *Essay* ChXXII, XXIII, XXVII (Watkins and Ariew 387-407) (20pgs)
2. *Essay* Book III ChIII, VI, Book IV Ch I, II, III (Watkins and Ariew 407-419) (12pgs)

10. Hume I

1. David Hume's *Enquiry* Section I-III (Watkins and Ariew 579-558) (9 pgs)
2. *Enquiry* Section IV (Watkins and Ariew 588-594) (6pgs)

11. Hume II

1. *Enquiry* Section V (Watkins and Ariew 594-601) (7pgs)
2. *Enquiry* Section VII (Watkins and Ariew 602-610) (8pgs)

12. Shepherd

1. Mary Shepherd's *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe* (Watkins and Ariew 549-553) (4pgs)
2. Mary Shepherd's *An Essay upon the Relation of Cause and Effect* (Watkins and Ariew 687-689) (2pgs)

13. Conclusions

1. Review
2. **EXAM 2**