Philosophy 305A: Modern Philosophy  
Fall 2007

Professor Andrew Youpa  
Office: Faner 3039  
Office Hours: MWF 4-6pm, and by appointment.  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the development of Western philosophy from 1641 to 1748. We will focus on metaphysical and epistemological issues in the masterpieces of Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. Some of the issues we will discuss include, but are not limited to: the conditions of knowledge, innatism, skepticism about the existence of the external world, and the existence of God. The aim is to provide a background in the philosophical systems of the greatest thinkers of the modern period in philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Rene Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, trans. Cottingham (Cambridge)  
John Locke, An Essay concerning Human Understanding, ed. Woolhouse (Penguin)  
George Berkeley, Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonus, ed. Adams (Hackett)  
David Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding, ed. Steinberg (Hackett)

RECOMMENDED TEXT
The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition, by Strunk and White (Longman)

GRADING
Attendance – 10%  Paper #1 – 20%  
Exam #1 – 20%  Paper #2 – 20%  
Exam #2 – 20%  Paper #3 – 20%

Attendance grade:  
4 missed classes: B  
5 missed classes: C  
6 missed classes: D  
7 or more missed: F

SCHEDULE (subject to change)
Week One  
Monday, August 20: Introduction  
Wednesday, August 22: Historical Background  
Friday, August 24: Descartes: First & Second Meditations, pp. 3-23

Week Two: Descartes  
Monday, August 27 & Wednesday, August 29: no new readings  
Friday, August 31: Third & Fourth Meditations, pp. 24-42
Week Three: Descartes
Monday, September 3: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (no class)
Wednesday, September 5 & Friday, September 7: no new readings

Week Four: Descartes
Monday, September 10: Fifth & Sixth Meditations, pp. 44-62
Wednesday, September 12 & Friday, September 14: no new readings

Week Five: Locke
Monday, September 17: Paper #1 is due at the beginning of class on Monday, September 17.
Wednesday, September 19: Essay, Book I, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 55-74)
Friday, September 21: Essay, Book II, Chapter 1, Paragraphs 1-9 (pp. 109-112); Book II, Chapter 2 (pp. 121-123)

Week Six: Locke
Monday, September 24: Essay, Book II, Chapter 8 (pp. 133-141); Book II, Chapter 12 (pp. 159-161)
Wednesday, Sept. 26 & Friday, Sept. 28: no new readings

Week Seven: Locke
Monday, October 1: Book II, Chapter 23 (pp. 268-286)
Wednesday, October 3 & Friday, October 5: no new readings

Week Eight: Locke
Monday, October 8: Essay, Book IV, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 467-498); Book IV, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 546-564)
Wednesday, October 10: no new readings
Friday, October 12: Exam #1

Week Nine: Berkeley
Monday, October 15: Three Dialogues, First Dialogue (pp. 7-42)
Wednesday, October 17 & Friday, October 19: no new readings

Week Ten: Berkeley
Monday, October 22: Three Dialogues, Second Dialogue (pp. 43-60)
Wednesday, October 24 & Friday, October 26: no new readings

Week Eleven: Berkeley
Monday, October 29: Three Dialogues, Third Dialogue (pp. 61-94)
Wednesday, October 31: no new readings
Friday, November 2: Paper #2 is due at the beginning of class.
Week Twelve: Hume
Monday, November 5: *Inquiry*, Sections I-V (pp. 1-25)
Wednesday, November 7 & Friday, November 9: no new readings

Week Thirteen: Hume
Monday, November 12: *Inquiry*, Sections VI-VII (pp. 25-53)
Wednesday, November 14 & Friday, November 16: no new readings

Week Fourteen: Hume
Monday, November 26: *Inquiry*, Sections X and XII (pp. 72-90 & pp. 102-114)
Wednesday, November 28: no new readings
Friday, November 30: Exam #2

Week Fifteen: Hume
December 3, 5 & 7: no new readings

Your final paper is due at my office no later than 2pm on Tuesday, December 11.