INTRODUCTION TO MODERN PHILOSOPHY
730:205
SYLLABUS

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Office hours:  M and W 4:30-5:30pm; by arrangement on Th afternoon

TEXTS:  Rene Descartes, Selected Philosophical Writings, tr. Cottingham, et. al.
       G. W. Leibniz, selections on electronic reserve
       John Locke, Essay concerning Human Understanding, abridged by Winkler
       George Berkeley, Principles and Three Dialogues, ed. Robinson
       David Hume, Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, ed. Steinberg

REQUIREMENTS:  You re expected to attend all meetings of the class—attendance will
be taken.  All readings assignments should be done thoroughly and promptly.  Each
assignment should be read for the class meeting by which it is listed.  You are strongly
encouraged to bring questions and comments to class and to join in class discussion.  This
benefits everyone in the group.  There will be two take-home mid term exams and a take-
home final exam.  There may also be short written assignments or in class quizzes.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 19  Introduction

      24  Descartes, Meditation 1

      26  ______, Meditation 2

      31  Same

Feb.  2  ______, Meditations 3 and 5
      Suggested: Meditation 4 and ‘Synopsis’, pp. 71-75

      7  ______, Meditation 6

      9  Same

      14  Descartes, Discourse on Method, Part 5, pp. 40-46
          First take-home exam distributed

      21  First take-home exam

      23  Leibniz, ‘Primary Truths’ (electronic reserve)

      28  Same
Mar. 2 ______, ‘New System of Nature’ (electronic reserve)

7 Same

9 Locke, *Essay*, Book 1, ch. 1 and Bk. 2, chs. 1-7 (simple ideas)

14-18 Spring Recess

21 _____, Bk 2, ch. 8 (primary and secondary qualities)

23 _____, Bk. 2, chs. 22 and 23 (ideas of mixed modes and ideas of substances)

28 _____, Bk 4, chs. 1-3 (knowledge and its limits)

30 _____, Bk 4, chs. 4 and 11 (knowledge of the external world)
    Suggested, Bk 2, ch. 30, sec. 2
    Second mid-term exam distributed

Apr. 4 Second mid-term exam

6 Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, Dialogue 1

11 _____, Dialogue 2, pp. 148-53

13 _____, Dialogue 3, pp. 169-84

18 Hume, *Enquiry*, secs. 1-4

20 _____, sec. 5 (skeptical solution to doubts about causal inference)

25 _____, sec. 7 (idea of causal necessity)

27 _____, secs. 11 and 12 (God, morality, and Academic skepticism)
    Take-home final exam distributed

May 2 Same

Final exam due on date of regularly scheduled exam for MW 4th period classes