SYLLABUS

G. W. Leibniz, papers on electronic reserve

REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to attend all meetings of the class and to do reading assignments thoroughly and promptly. Each assignment should be read at least once for the class meeting on the date by which it is listed. You are strongly encouraged to ask questions and to join in class discussion. There will be two take-home midterm exams and a take-home final exam. There may also be short out-of-class assignments, quizzes, or in-class presentations.

LEARNING GOALS: The course is intended to provide basic understanding of main philosophers of the early modern period, their philosophical systems, topical issues, positions, and historical context. It is also meant to develop skill in analyzing and evaluating arguments.

SCHEDULE:

Jan. 20 Introduction

25 Descartes, “Synopsis” and *Meditations* I and II

27 Hobbes, “Third Set of Objections”, *Philosophical Writings, etc.*, 121-6

Feb. 1 Descartes, *Meditation* III
Caterus, “First Set of Objections”, *Phil Writings*, 66-9; Descartes’ “Replies”, 74-82 (theory of ideas)

3 Hobbes, “Third Objections”, *Phil Writings*, 125-37 (image theory of ideas)

8 Descartes, *Meditations* IV (quick reading) and V
Caterus, “First Set of Objections” *Phil Writings*, 69-73 and Descartes’ “Replies”, 74-82 (ontological argument)

10 Mersenne, “Second Objections” *Phil Writings*, 89; Descartes’ “Replies”, 100-4
Arnauld, “Fourth Objections”, 150; Descartes’ Replies, 171 (circularity charge)

15 Descartes, Meditation VI
Arnauld, “Fourth Objections: Phil Writings, 139-44; Descartes’ “Replies”, 154-62 (argument for mind-body dualism)
First midterm exam distributed
17  Gassendi, “Fifth Objections”, nos. 4 and 5, Phil Writings, 234-9; Descartes’ “Replies”, 265-7 (mind-body union)

Feb. 22  same

24  Locke, Essay concerning Human Understanding, Book I, chapters 1-4 (against innate ideas and knowledge)
    First midterm exam due

Mar. 1  ______, Bk. II. chs. 1-8 (the origin of ideas; against Cartesian essences, mechanism)

3  same

8  ______, Bk. II, chs. 22 and 23 (ideas of mixed modes and substances)

10  ______, Bk. II, chs. 30-32 (theory of representation: reality, adequacy, truth of ideas)

Mar. 12-20  Spring vacation

22  ______, Bk. IV. chs. 1-3 (knowledge and its limits)
    Second midterm exam distributed

24  ______, Bk. IV chs. 4 and 11 (sensory knowledge and the external world)

29  same

31  Leibniz, “Discourse on Metaphysics”, secs. 1-17 (all Leibniz readings on electronic reserve) (substance, the best possible world)

Apr. 5  ______, Excerpt from letter to Arnauld
    Short written assignment; due in class Apr. 12

7  same

12  same

14  ______, New Essays concerning Human Understanding, Preface

19  ______, New Essays, 69-101 (defense of innate ideas and knowledge)

26  ______, New Essays, 229-248
    Locke, Essay 2.27 (identity, personal identity)
    Final exam distributed

28  same

May 2  same

12  Final exam due in Philosophy Department Office at 4:00PM