Department of Philosophy

01:730: 307 Descartes, Locke and the Seventeenth Century

Instructor: Martha Bolton

Contact information: mbolton@rci.rutgers.edu
Office: 106 Somerset St. Rm 538

Pre or Co-requisites: One course in philosophy

Description: Study of the systematic philosophies of Descartes and Locke and their critics. Topics considered include substance, causality, mind and body, space and time, necessity and contingency.

Student Learning Outcome Goals: Goals include basic understanding of main philosophers of early modern period, development of skills in interpreting texts, analyzing and evaluating theories and arguments.

Required Texts:
Philosophical Writings of Descartes, v. 2, trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch
John Locke, Essay concerning Human Understanding, ed. Nidditch

Anticipated Assignments and Grading Structure (assignments, papers, projects, exams, and other methods of evaluation, with due dates where available):
Two take-home exams and one paper (10 pages). Evaluation based on written assignments, attendance and participation.

Final Exam/Paper: Final paper due Dec. 20,