INTRODUCTION TO MODERN PHILOSOPHY
SPRING SEMESTER, 2016
THEME: RATIONALISM, EMPIRICISM, PRAGMATISM
01: 730:205

Martha Bolton—Office: 106 Somerset Street, Rm 538; Phone: 848-732-0430
Email: mbolton@rci.rutgers.edu
Office hours: M 4:30-5:30, Th afternoon by appointment
Course meetings: FH B 4, MW 1:10-2:30 PM.

SYLLABUS

REQUIRED TEXTS: Rene Descartes, Selected Philosophical Writings, trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch (CSM)
George Berkeley, Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues, ed. Robinson
David Hume, Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, ed. Steinberg
William James, Pragmatism and Other Writings, ed. Gunn

REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to attend all meetings of the course. If you expect to miss one or two classes, you may use the electronic absence reporting form https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ An email will automatically be sent to me. Reading assignments should be completed thoroughly and promptly. Notes on most assignments will be emailed to you prior to the class. Come to class having read the assignment in conjunction with the notes and prepared to discuss them. There will be two take-home midterm exams and a take-home final. There may also be short assignments to be completed outside of class or in-class exercises or quizzes.

LEARNING GOALS: The course is intended to provide basic understanding of three main philosophical systems which have shaped philosophy in the modern era. This includes knowledge of a system’s main tenets, methods, strategies and its application to several main topic or problems. The course is also meant to develop skill in analyzing and evaluating arguments.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 20 Introduction
25 Descartes, ‘Synopsis’ of Meditations (CSM pp. 71-75) and Meditation I
27 ______, Meditation II
Feb. 1 ______, Meditations III and V; suggested, Meditation IV
3 ______, Meditation VI
8 same; **first take-home midterm exam distributed**

10 ______, *Discourse on Method*, Pt. V

15 **midterm exam due**; Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, Dial. 1

17 ______, Dialogue 2

22 ______, Dialogue 3

Feb. 24 same

29 same

Mar. 2 David Hume, *Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, secs. 1-4

7 ______, sec. 5 (skeptical solution of doubts about causal inference)

9 no class

Mar. 12-20 Spring recess

21 ______, sec. 7 (idea of necessary connection)

23 ______, secs. 8 (liberty and necessity); **second mid-term exam distributed**

28 ______, sec. 11 (providence and a future state)

30 ______, sec. 12 (skepticism)

Apr. 4 same

6 **Second mid-term exam due**; James, Pragmatism, ‘The Present State of Philosophy’ (pp. 5-23)

11 ______, ‘What Pragmatism Means’ (pp. 24-40)

13 ______, ‘Some Metaphysical Problems Considered Pragmatically’ (pp. 41-57)

18 same

20 ______, ‘Pragmatism’s Conception of Truth’ (pp. 87-104)TBA

25 TBA

27 TBA

May 1 questions and review

**May 10 Final take-home exam due** at 12 noon in Philosophy Department Office, 106 Somerset Street, Rm 518.
ACADEMIC POLICY:

Academic integrity is taken very seriously in this course. Violations include: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, denying others access to facilities or information, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. For the current University academic integrity policy, go to http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy. Ask the instructor if you have questions about how this policy affects your work for this course.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

STUDENT SERVICES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

Just In Case Web App http://codu.co/cee0Se
Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/
CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students’ efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)
(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/
The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services
(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / https://ods.rutgers.edu/
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