**Philosophy 120 – The Continental Rationalists and Company**

Fall 2019

Syllabus



*The Cave of Plato*, Cornelis Cornelisz van Haarlem, 1604

**Important Information:**

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Location: Emerson Hall 107

Professor: Jeffrey McDonough

Office Hours: 202 Emerson Hall, Thursdays, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

E-mail: jkmcdon@fas.harvard.edu

Course Web Page: Canvass web site available through MyHarvard portal

**Course Description:**

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were among the most exciting and revolutionary periods in the history of western philosophy. Among the most prominent philosophers working in that period, Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz have traditionally been grouped together under the label “Continental Rationalists” in virtue of their embrace of systematic metaphysics and emphasis on rational reflection as a source of knowledge. This undergraduate level course aims to provide an overview of the development of early modern rationalism while exploring in detail a number of central issues, arguments and controversies. Optional readings will place our three central figures in the larger context of philosophical developments in the early modern era. Topics will include philosophical methodology, skepticism, knowledge, substance, mind-body relations, and the metaphysical foundations of science.

**Required Texts – available at the COOP,** https://tinyurl.com/300-F19-PHIL-120-1**:**

Descartes, *Selected Philosophical Writings*, ed. and trans., J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, D. Murdoch (Cambridge University Press). ISBN: 978-0521358125. Abbreviated below as DSPW.

Spinoza, *A Spinoza Reader*, ed. and trans. Edwin Curley (Princeton University Press). ISBN: 978-0691000671. Abbreviated below as Reader.

Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, ed. and trans. R. Ariew & D. Garber (Hackett). ISBN: 978-0872200623. Abbreviated below as AG.

**Requirements and Grading:**

*1. Reading*

The ability to read texts carefully and thoughtfully is one of the most important skills the study of philosophy can foster. In order to better understand what is being taught, and to promote informed classroom discussions, required readings should be completed before lecture. Those readings are typically very short, but also very difficult, and students who wish to do well in the course should expect to read assigned texts more than once.

2. *Papers*

In order to give students a chance to explore topics in greater depth, and to improve their writing skills, each student will be required to write three short papers, one paper corresponding to each of the sections of the course. Papers should be 1500-2000 words. All papers should be submitted on the course web site as Word documents. Details concerning paper assignments will be discussed in class. If you have any questions, please ask.

*3. Participation*

Our classroom time will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. It is crucial both for your own learning and for the learning of others that you regularly attend our meeting sessions. Attendance will be taken. Please note: to pass this course, you must pass all components of this course. In particular, that means that a failing participation grade will result in a failing grade for the course.

*4. Final exam*

In order to give students an opportunity to review what they have learned over the course of the semester, a final exam will be provided. The exam will be limited to 120 minutes and administered on a date to be determined by the registrar’s office.

*5. Grading*

Grades will be determined by scores received for classroom participation, papers, and the final exam according to the following percentages:

First short paper: 10 %

Second short paper: 20 %

Third short paper: 20 %

Participation: 20 %

Final exam: 30 %

*6. Special Needs and Emergencies*

Students requiring special assistance are encouraged to inform the professor at the beginning of the term. We are happy to accommodate those with special needs as far as possible. Absences from class or exam periods and late papers will be dealt with in accordance with the policies described in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences handbooks. Students should expect that late papers will be marked down a third of a letter grade for each day that they are late. Requests made to *prior* to an absence or due date may result in special accommodation.

*7. Academic Integrity*

##### Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

**UNDERGRADUATE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

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| **Tues, Sept 3** | **Early Modern Rationalism: Introduction** |
| Core reading (required): | Course Syllabus  |
| Further reading (optional): | Leibniz, “Preface to the New Essays,” AG 291-306.  |

**-- DESCARTES --**

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| **Thurs, Sept 5** | **Descartes’s Life, Works and Early Method** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Rules for the Direction of our Native Intelligence*, Rule Twelve, DSPW 12-18. Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part Six, DSPW, pp. 46-56. |
| Further (optional): | Descartes, *Rules for the Direction of our Native Intelligence*, Rules One-Thirteen, DSPW 1-19.Descartes, *Appendix: Arguments Arranged in Geometrical Fashion*, DSPW 150-152. |
| Company (optional): | Francis Bacon, “The Inductive Method,” from *The New Organon*, ed. Lisa Jardine and Michael Silverthorne (Cambridge University Press, 2000). On course site. |

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| **Tues, Sept 10** | **Skeptical Doubts** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, First Meditation, DSPW 76-79. Descartes, *Objections and Replies*, On Meditation One, DSPW 123-126.Descartes, *Principles*, Part I, sections 1-6, DSPW 160-161. |
| Further (optional): | Descartes, *Synopsis of the Following Six Meditations*, DSPW 73-76.Descartes, *Dedicatory Letter to the Sorbonne* and *Preface to the Reader*, pp. 3-5. On course site. |
| Company (optional):  | Pierre Gassendi, *Fifth Set of Objections* and Descartes’s *Replies*, trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 83-146: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1642_3.pdf> |

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| **Thurs, Sept 12** | ***Cogito, Ergo Sum*** |
| Core (required):  | Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Second Meditation, DSPW 80-86.Descartes, *Objections and Replies*, On Meditation Two, DSPW 126-131.Descartes, *Principles*, Part I, sections 7-12, DSPW 161-164. |
| Further (optional): | Descartes, *Principles*, Part I, sections 51-53, 60-62, DSPW 177-178, 180-182.Saint Augustine, passages from *The Trinity* 15.12.21, *Enchiridion* 7.20, *The City of God* 11.26 in Peter King, ed. and trans., *Against the Academicians*, *The Teacher*, and *The City of God* (Hackett Publishing), pp. 158-163. On course site.  |
| Company (optional): | Thomas Hobbes, *Third Set of Objections* and Descartes’s *Replies*, trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 42-53:<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1642_2.pdf> |

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| **Tues, Sept 17** | **God, Truth, and Error** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Meditations, DSPW 86-110.Descartes, *Objections and Replies*, On Meditations Three, Four and Five, DSPW 131-143. |
| Further (optional):  | Descartes, *Principles*, Part I, sections 13-50, DSPW 164-176.  |
| Company (optional): | Francisco Suarez, *Metaphysical Disputaions*, Disputation 17, Section 1, What an Efficient Cause Is, trans. Alfred J. Freddoso (Yale University Press), pp. 5-10. On course site.  |

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| **Thurs, Sept 19** | **Body, Space, Motion**  |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*, Book II, §§1-23, 64, DSPW 189-199. |
| Further (optional):  | Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*, Book II, §§24-53, trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 28-38: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1644part2.pdf> |
| Company (optional): | Isaac Newton, “Descartes on Body, Space and Motion” trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 1-21:<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/newton1666.pdf> |

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| **Tues, Sept 24** | **Legacy in Natural Philosophy and Eternal Truths** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*, Book IV, §§ 198-207, DSPW 205-212.Set of readings by Descartes on Eternal Truths, available as a single document on course site: 1. Reply to Fifth Set of Objections (selection), CSM 2:261-3; 2. Section 6 from Sixth Set of Replies, CSM 2:291-292; 3. Letter to Mersenne 27 May 1630, CSMK 25-26; 4. Letter to Gibieuf 19 January 1642, CSMK 201-204;5. Section 6 from “For [Arnauld] 29 July 1648,” CSMK 358-59. |
| Further (optional):  | Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part 1, Question 25, Article 3: Whether God is Omnipotent? Text available on-line here: [http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1025.htm - article3](http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1025.htm#article3) |
| Company (optional): | Galileo, *Letter to Castelli (1613)*, and *Day 1: Critique of Aristotle’s Law of Fall*, ed. and trans. Maurice A. Finocchiaro, *The Essential Galileo* (Hackett Publishing), pp. 103-109, 300-306. On course site. |

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| **Thurs, Sept 26** | **The Real Distinction between Mind and Body** |
| Core (required):  | Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part Four, DSPW 35-40.Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Sixth Meditation, First Half, DSPW 110-116.Descartes, *Objections and Replies*, On Meditations Six, DSPW 143-150. |
| Further (optional):  | Géraud de Cordmoy, *Six Discourses on the Distinction between the Body and the Soul*, trans., Steven Nadler (Oxford University Press), Sixth Discourse, Parts One and Two, pp. 108-118. On course site. |
| Company (optional): | Louis de La Forge, *Treatise on the Human Mind* (1664), trans. Desmond M. Clarke (Kluwer Academic Publishers), Chapters 4 and 5, pp. 38-56. On course site. |

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| **Tues, Oct 1** | **Mind-Body Union** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Sixth Meditation, Second Half, DSPW 116-122. |
| Further (optional): | Descartes, *The Passions of the Soul* (edited), DSPW 218- 238.  |
| Company (required):  | *Princess Elisabeth and Descartes, Selected Correspondence. trans. and ed. J. Bennett:*  Elisabeth to Descartes on 6.v.1643;  Descartes to Elisabeth on 21.v.1643;  Elisabeth to Descartes on 10.vi.1643;  Descartes to Elisabeth on 28.vi.1643;  Elisabeth to Descartes on 1.vii.1643.All available at: [**https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1643.pdf**](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1643.pdf) |

**--SPINOZA--**

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| **Thurs, Oct 3** | **Spinoza’s Life, Works, and Methods**  |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *The Emendation of the Intellect*, Paragraphs 1-49. On course site. Also quickly look through the *Ethics* for a feel of its presentation and structure.  |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, *The Emendation of the Intellect*, Paragraphs 50-110. On course site. Letter 37 - Note: all of Spinoza’s letters listed in the syllabus without links are collected together and posted as one file on the course web site. |
| Company (optional): | Antoine Arnauld and Pierre Nicole, *The Art of Thinking*, Part 4, Chapters 2 and 3, trans. James Dickoff and Patricia James, pp. 302-311. On course site.  |

DUE: Sunday, October 6, First short paper on Descartes section. Papers must be submitted on the course as Word documents by 11:59pm.

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| **Tues, Oct 8** | **A *Theological-Political Treatise*** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *A Critique of Traditional Religion*, trans. and ed. Edwin Curley, Reader: A. On Religion and Superstition, Reader, pp. 6-10;B. On Revelation, Reader, pp. 10-23; D. On Law and God as a Lawgiver, pp. 26-34; E. On Miracles, pp. 34-40.  |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, *A Critique of Traditional Religion*, trans. and ed. Edwin Curley, Reader: C. On God as an Agent in History, pp. 23-26; F. On Interpreting Scripture, pp. 40-48.  |
| Company (optional):  | Edited correspondence with Willem van Blijenbergh (20. from van Blijenbergh 16.i.1665, 21. to van Blijenbergh, 29.i.1665), ed. and trans., J. Bennett, pp. 29-39:<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/spinoza1661part2.pdf> . Letter from Albert Burgh (67. from Burgh, 11.ix.1675), trans. J. Bennett, pp. 93-98: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/spinoza1661part4.pdf>Letter from Nicolas Steno (67a. from Steno, 1675), trans. J. Bennett, pp. 98-101: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/spinoza1661part4.pdf> |

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| **Thurs, Oct 10** | **Spinoza’s Ontology** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 1d3, 1d4, 1d5, 1d6, 1p10ds, 1p11, 1p25c, 2d2, 2p47d, Letter 9; Descartes, *Principles* 1:51, DSPW 177Note: references to Spinoza’s *Ethics* are to book, proposition, definition, corollary and scholia. So, for example, 1d3 = Book 1, definition 3. 1p11 = Book 1, proposition 11.  |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 1p13cs, 1p19ds, 1p28ds, 2p7s, Letter 10, Letter 64Descartes, *Second Set of Replies,* “Arguments proving the existence of God … arranged in geometrical fashion, V. Substance,” DSPW 153. |
| Company (optional): | Selected, edited correspondence with Ehrenfied Walther von Tschirnhaus, (80. from von Tschirnhaus 2.v.1676, 81. to von Tschirnhaus 5.v.1676, 82. from von Tschirnhaus 23.vi.1676, 83. to von Tschirnhaus 15.vi.1676, ed. and trans., J. Bennett, pp. 113-114: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/spinoza1661part4.pdf>Hegel, “A2. Spinoza,” from *Lectures on the History of Philosophy*, on-line: <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/hp/hpspinoz.htm> |

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| **Tues, Oct 15** | **Spinoza’s Master Argument, Part 1** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 1d6, 1p5, 1p11, 1p14; Leibniz, “If a necessary being is possible, it follows that it exists” (March 1689-March 1690 (?)), in Lloyd Strickland, *Leibniz on God and Religion* (Bloomsbury), p. 63. On course site.  |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, Letters 2, 3, 4 (all to Henry Oldenburg). On course site. Leibniz, “A proof of the existence of God from his essence” (January 1678) in Lloyd Strickland, *Leibniz on God and Religion* (Bloomsbury), p. 53-60 . On course site. |
| Company (optional): | Edited correspondence with Henry Oldenburg (from Oldenburg 26.viii.1661, to Oldenburg ix.1661, from Oldenburg 27.ix.1661, to Oldenburg x.1661) ed. and trans. J. Bennett, pp. 1-5: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/spinoza1661.pdf> |

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| **Thurs, Oct 17** | **Spinoza’s Master Argument, Part 2** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 1d2, 1d3, 1p6-1p11, 1p14, 1p21, 1p22, 1p23, 1p28 |
| Further (optional): reading: | Spinoza, Letters 35 and 36 |
| Company (optional): | Immanuel Kant, “The Only Possible Argument …,” in *Theoretical Philosophy 1755-1770*, trans. and ed. David Walford and Ralf Meerbore, Section 1, First Reflection, part 1 Existence is not a predicate or a determination of a thing, and Section 1, Third Reflection, part 2 There exists an absolutely necessary being, pp. 117-119, 127-128. On course site. |

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| **Tues, Oct 22** | **Rationalism, Determinism, Necessitarianism** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 1p16, 1p28, 1p29, 1p33, 1p34, 1p35. |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, Letters 40, 54, 74, 75, 80-83; Ethics 1p4d2. |
| Company (optional): | Moses Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed*, trans. Friedländer [1904], Book II, Chapter 19: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/gfp/gfp106.htm> |

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| **Thurs, Oct 24** | **Panpsychism, Parallelism, and Persons** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 2 preface, definitions, axioms; 2p3-7 |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 2 (all)  |
| Company (optional): | Margaret Cavendish, *Observations upon Experimental Philosophy*, ed. Eileen O’Neill, Chapter XXXV Of Knowledge and Perception in General. (At the end of the primary text, I have also included Eileen O’Neill’s helpful introduction to Cavendish.) On course site.  |

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| **Tues, Oct 29** | **Freedom, The Passions and Eternality** |
| Core (required): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 4 preface, definitions, axiom, 4p18, 32-35, 37, 67-68, 72s; Spinoza, *Ethics*, 5 preface, axioms, 5p22, 38, 29s |
| Further (optional): | Spinoza, *Ethics* 5 (all) |
| Company (optional): | Anne Finch, Viscountess Conway, *The Principles of the most Ancient and Modern Philosophy God, Christ, and Creatures The Nature of Spirit and Matter*, Chapters 1-3, trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 1-10, available here: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/conway1692.pdf>  |

**-- LEIBNIZ --**

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| **Thurs, Oct 31** |  **Leibniz’s Life, Works, and Theodicy** |
| Core (required): | *Discourse on Metaphysics*, sections 1-7=AG 35-40; *Dialogue on Human Freedom and the Origin of Evil* (25 January 1695)=AG 111-117.  |
| Further (optional): | *On the Radical Origination of Things* (13 November 1697)=L 486-491; (On course site)*Letter to Louis Bourguet* (5 August 1715)=L 663 – 665; (On course site) Summary of the Controversy Reduced to Formal Argument=Hubbard trans 377-388. (On course site)  |
| Company (recommended): | Nicholas Malebranche “Treatise on Nature and Grace,” in Steven Nadler, ed., *Philosophical Selections*, pp. 257-268. Copy on course site.  |

DUE: Sunday, November 3, Second short paper on Spinoza section. Papers must be submitted on the course as Word documents by 11:59pm.

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| **Tues, Nov 5** | **Freedom and Contingency** |
| Core (required): | *Discourse on Metaphysics*, section 13=AG 44-46; *On Freedom=*AG 94-98; *Letter to Coste, on Human Freedom=*AG 193-196; Letter to Foucher (1675) = AG 1-5; On Contingency (1686?) = AG 28-30; Primary Truths =AG 30-34. |
| Further (optional): | Preface to a Universal Characteristic (1678-79) = AG 5-10; Samples of the Numerical Characteristic (1679) = AG 10-18; Meditations on Knowledge, Truth and Ideas (1684) = AG 23-27. Arnauld to Leibniz, 13 May 1686, in *The Leibniz-Arnauld Correspondence*, trans. Stephen Voss, pp. 39-55, available on course site. |
| Company (optional):  | John Wilkins, *An Essay Towards a Real Character, and a Philosophical Language*, CHAP. I. I. The Introduction (first five pages), available on-line at: [https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A66045.0001.001/1:7.1?rgn=div2;view=fulltext](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A66045.0001.001/1%3A7.1?rgn=div2;view=fulltext) |

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| **Thurs, Nov 7** | **Matter** |
| Core (required): | *On Nature Itself*=AG 155-167; *On Body and Force, Against the Cartesians*=AG 250-256; *Discourse* *on Metaphysics* 11 & 12= AG 43-44. |
| Further (optional): | *Letter to Arnauld 28 November/8 December 1686* (selection)=AG 79-81; *Letter to Arnauld 30 April 1687*=AG 85-89; *Note on Foucher’s Objection*=AG145-147; *Letters to Johann Bernoulli*=AG 167-171; *Letter to Samuel Mason* (selection) AG 228-230.  |
| Company (optional): | Robert Boyle, *About the Excellency and Grounds of the Mechanical Hypothesis* (selection) in *Selected Philosophical Papers of Robert* *Boyle*, ed. M.A. Stewart (Hackett Publishing), 138-152, available through course site. |

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| **Tues, Nov 12** | **Dynamics** |
| Core (required): | *A Specimen of Dynamics I* = AG 118-130; *Discourse on Metaphysics* 17 & 18=AG 49-52; Absolute and *Relative Motion from Letters to Huygens* (1694) = AG 307-309. |
| Further (optional): | *Dynamics: On Power and the Laws of Corporeal Nature*=AG 105-111; Letters to De Volder=AG 171-186. Burchard De Volder to Bernoulli 21 November 1698, in *The Leibniz-De Volder Correspondence*, trans. Paul Lodge, pp 13-25, available on course site.  |
| Company (optional): | Émilie Du Châtelet, *Foundations of Physics*, Chapter Twenty-One, “Of the force of bodies,” pp. 187-200 in the translation and edition by Bour and Zinsser available here: <https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/96f981_3d405c5380b545139f52c0564a753cd7.pdf> |

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| **Thurs, Nov 14** | **Corporeal substances** |
| Core (required): | *Discourse on Metaphysics*, sections 8-14=AG 40-47; *Notes on Some Comments by Michel Angelo Fardella* (1690)=AG 101-105; Leibniz to de Volder 20 June 1703=AG 174-178; Leibniz to de Volder 1704 or 1705= AG 181-4; *Considerations on Vital Principles and Plastic Natures, by the Author of the System of Pre-established Harmony* = L. 586-591, on course web site. |
| Further (optional): | Leibniz to de Volder 24 March/3 April 1699=AG 171-174; Leibniz to de Volder 30 June 1704=AG 178-181; Arnauld to Leibniz, 28 September 1686, in *The Leibniz-Arnauld Correspondence*, trans. Stephen Voss, pp. 123-131, on course site. |
| Company (optional): | Anne Finch, Viscountess Conway, *The Principles of the most Ancient and Modern Philosophy God, Christ, and Creatures The Nature of Spirit and Matter*, Chapters 7-9, trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 26-50, available here: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/conway1692.pdf> |

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| **Tues, Nov 19** | **Immaterial substances** |
| Core (required): | *Principles of Nature and Grace, Based on Reason* (1714)=AG 206-213; *The Principles of Philosophy, or, the Monadology* (1714)=AG 213-225; Leibniz to Des Bosses 5 February 1712=AG 198-199. |
| Further (optional): | Notes for Leibniz to Des Bosses 5 February 1712=AG199-200; Leibniz to Des Bosses 26 May 1712=AG 200-201; Leibniz to Des Bosses, 29 May 1716=AG 201-206; Editor’s introduction to “Theological Writings related to the Catholic Demonstrations” (on course site [L. 109]); Letter to John Frederick 1679 (on course site [L. 259-262]; To Arnauld (28 Nov/8 Dec 1686)=AG 77-81; To Arnauld 30 April 1687=AG 81-90;  |
| Company (optional):  | Bartholomew Des Bosses to Leibniz, 6 September 1709, in *The Leibniz-Des Bosses Correspondence*, trans. Donald Rutherford and Brandon Look, pp. 141-149. On course site. |

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| **Thurs, Nov 21** | **Pre-established Harmony and Causation** |
| Core (required): | New System of Nature = AG 138-144; Postscript of a Letter to Basnage de Beauval = AG 147-149; Preface to the New Essays = AG 291-305; Discourse on Metaphysics 19 = AG 52. |
| Company (optional): | From *Leibniz’s ‘New System’ and Associated Contemporary Texts*, eds. and trans. R. S. Woolhouse and R. Franks (Oxford), pp. 72-86, on course site:PB.1 [Pierre] Bayle: Note H to Dictionary Article ‘Rorarius’ (concerning ‘A great mind in Germany, who has understood these problems [and who] has provided some insights which are worth developing’). PB.2 Leibniz: Unpublished comments on Bayle’s Note H & PB.3 Leibniz: ‘A Letter from M. Leibniz to the Editor, Containing an Explanation of the Difficulties which M. Bayle Found with the New System of the Union of the Soul and Body.  |

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| **Tues, Nov 26** | **Space, time and monads** |
| Core (required): | Letters to Clark=AG 320-346 |
| Further (optional): | Primary Truths (selection: “There is no vacuum”)=AG 33;  |
| Company (optional): | Samuel “Clarke’s Fifth Reply,” trans. and ed. J. Bennett, pp. 49-60, available here: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1715_2.pdf> |

**Thanksgiving Break: No class Thursday, November 28**

DUE: Sunday, December 1, Third short paper on Leibniz section. Papers must be submitted on the course as Word documents by 11:59pm.

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| **Tues, Dec 3** | **Early Modern Rationalism: Conclusion** |
| Core (required): | Descartes, *Letter of the Author to the French Translator of the Principles of Philosophy Serving for a Preface*, on-line at: [https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/1698 - Descartes1325\_491](https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/1698#Descartes1325_491)Spinoza, *Portrait of the Philosopher as a Young Man*; A Spinoza Reader, pp. 3-6Leibniz, “Leibniz’s Philosophical Dream,” trans. Donald Rutherford, on-line at: <http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rutherford/Leibniz/translations/Dream.pdf> |

FINAL EXAM

Our final exam date will be announced by the registrar’s office and posted on-line. All students are advised that they should not make any travel plans until the official Final Examination Schedule is published on the Registrar’s website. Students are expected to be in residence for the duration of the Final Examination Period. For the fall term 2019, the Final Examination Period is Tuesday, December 10 through Thursday, December 19.