SYLLABUS

PHI 3020

History of Modern Philosophy

Dr. Sergio Gallegos

Spring 2017

Office: Central Classroom 307J

Office Hours: M &W 12:30am to 1:45pm and T & Th 9:30AM to 10:45AM

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**Required Texts**:

Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (eds.), *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*, Second Edition. Hackett 2009 (Abbreviated as MP). ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-978-7

Margaret Atherton (ed.), *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, Hackett 2004. (Abbreviated as WPEMP). ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-259-7

In addition, there will be other readings. These will be made available on BlackBoard.

Always bring the book or a copy of the we are currently reading to class.

Books are available at the campus bookstore. You may also order your books online (from, for example, Amazon), but make sure you get the correct edition—check the ISBN number to be certain. It is very important that you get these exact books, since translations differ widely (in quality), and so that we are all (literally) on the same page. I strongly suggest you get paper copies of the books, since electronic editions do not have page numbers.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Recall and relate basic information about key figures, and their positions, in modern philosophy.

2. Connect these figures to historical realities (e.g., the rise of modern science) coincident with their intellectual milieu.

3. Relate and reflect upon different responses to similar philosophical issues and difficulties.

4. Demonstrate the ability to locate sources when information is needed, and to evaluate the authenticity, validity, and reliability of resources applied to a specific purpose.

5. Create persuasive and well-reasoned arguments that are appropriate to topic and purpose.

6. Communicate in writing with an awareness of audience, by using language conventions appropriate to the occasion and task.

7. Identify important examples of texts, creative works, artifacts, or problems in the discipline including the cultural context.

8. Analyze text(s), artifact(s), or problems(s) using a point of view informed by the critical or aesthetic perspectives appropriate to the discipline.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is an upper-level course in philosophy that is designed to introduce students to philosophical issues, primarily in the Early Modern Period (1600-1800). This course covers fundamental questions that preoccupied philosophers and scientists in the Early Modern Period such as “What is reality like?”, “How can we distinguish appearance from reality” and “What is the relation between mind and body?”. Important cultural achievements, in the form of original works, will be emphasized. (The course satisfies the requirement for Arts and Humanities)

Our discussion will focus on the views of Descartes, Hume, and Kant; however, we will also consider the views of other figures, including some of the important women philosophers writing in the period. We will read substantial excerpts from the writings of these authors, attempting both to understand and to critically assess their main ideas and arguments.

**Grading for the Course**:

Two short descriptive papers (2-3 pages each) (20% of your grade each, 40% in total)

One take-home assignment based on film and class material (10% of your grade)

Long research paper (7-8 pages) (30% of your final grade)

Final in-class exam (20% of your grade)

Grades will be determined as follows:

A+: 970-1000

A: 930-969

A-: 900-929

B+: 870-899

B: 830-869

B-: 800-829

C+: 770-799

C: 730-769

C-: 700-729

D+: 670-699

D: 630-669

D-: 600-629

F: 0-599

**Reading Schedule**:

Philosophy can be very difficult reading. Take your time to slowly and carefully read the material by the following date (if this becomes too unwieldy, we’ll modify it).

January, T. 17th: Course introduction

Th. 19st: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, First Meditation (MP, pp. 35-47)

T. 24th: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Second Meditation (MP, pp. 43-47)

Th. 26th: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Third Meditation (MP, pp. 47-54)

T. 31st: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Fourth Meditation (MP, pp. 43-47)

February, Th. 2nd: Meditations on First Philosophy, Sixth Meditation (MP, pp. 43-47) **Topic for first short descriptive paper on Descartes handed out**

T. 7th: Selections of the correspondence of Elizabeth to Descartes (WP, pp. 11-21)

Th. 9th Fourth set of Objections with the Author’s Replies (MP, pp. 83-92) **First short descriptive paper on Descartes due.**

T. 14th: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, First Dream, pp. 166-180 (Available on Blackboard)

Th. 16th: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, First Dream, pp. 180-195 (Available on Blackboard)

T. 21st: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Response to Sor Filotea, pp. 38-68 (Available on Blackboard).

Th. 23rd: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Response to Sor Filotea, pp. 68-104 (Available on Blackboard)

T. 28th: Film: ‘I, the worst of all’. **Take-home assignment based on film and class material handed out.**

March, Th. 2nd: Spinoza’s Ethics, Part I, (MP pp. 144-149)

T. 7th: Spinoza’s Ethics, Part I, (MP, pp. 149-155) **Take-home assignment based on film and class material handed due.**

Th. 9th: Spinoza’s Ethics, Part I, (MP pp. 156-164)

T. 14th: Anne Conway, Principles of the most Ancient and Modern Philosophy (WPEMP, pp. 48-61)

Th. 16th: Anne Conway, Principles of the most Ancient and Modern Philosophy (WPEMP, pp. 61-76)

T. 21st: Spring Break. No classes scheduled

Th. 23rd: Spring Break. No classes scheduled.

T. 28th: Berkeley, Three dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, First Dialogue (MP, pp. 454-474) **Second descriptive paper on Spinoza due**.

Th. 30st: Berkeley, Three dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, Second Dialogue (MP, pp. 474-484)

April,: T. 4th: Berkeley, Three dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, Third Dialogue (MP, pp. 484-503)

Th. 6th: Mary Shepherd, Essays on the Perception of an External Universe (WPEMP, pp. 149-159)

T. 11st: David Hume, An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Section I-III (MP 533-542). **Topics for final research paper handed out.**

Th. 13th David Hume, An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Section IV (MP-542-548)

T. 18th: David Hume, An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Section V (MP-548-555)

Th. 20th: David Hume, An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Section VI-VII (MP-555-564)

T. 25th: Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to any future Metaphysics, Preface and Preamble (MP, 655-672) **Review sheet for final exam handed out.**

Th. 27th: Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to any future Metaphysics, Part I (MP, 673-679)

May, T. 2nd: Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to any future Metaphysics, Part II (MP, 679-695) **Long research paper due.**

Th. 4th: Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to any future Metaphysics, Part III (MP, 695-716)

**Final in-class exam during final exam week (exact date TBD)**

POLICIES AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students are responsible for full knowledge of the provisions and regulations pertaining to all aspects of their attendance at MSU Denver, and should familiarize themselves with the policies found in the MSU Denver Catalog. <http://catalog.msudenver.edu/>

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

● I expect all students to follow the student code of conduct:

http://www.msudenver.edu/handbook/studentcodeofconduct/ .

● Please make every effort to arrive in class on time. Please do not leave the class before the period is over. I will make every effort to end at the moment the period ends.

● You are expected to treat the instructor and your fellow students with respect. That means, among other things, not interrupting, shouting at, or demeaning other people.

● The use of cell phones (including talking and texting) is strictly prohibited in class and will be considered disruptive behavior.

● Other electronic devices are not allowed, except in special circumstances. Please come talk to me if you wish to use an electronic device such as a laptop, iPad, recording device, etc.

● Students who exhibit disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the class. Please see:

http://www.msudenver.edu/studentengagementandwellness/studentconductandconflictresolutionservices/ for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE

Students should be aware that any kind of withdrawal can have a negative impact on some types of financial aid and scholarships. For further information, click on read the Withdrawals page.

http://msudenver.edu/financialaid/undergraduate/keepingawards/withdrawals/

The Withdrawal (W) notation is assigned when a student officially withdraws from a course via the Student Hub after the drop deadline (census date) and before the withdrawal deadline posted in the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar. <http://msudenver.edu/financialaid/undergraduate/keepingawards/withdrawals/>

Deadlines differ proportionally for courses offered during part of a semester, including late-start and weekend courses. Students should refer to the Student Detail Schedule via the Student Hub to review drop and withdrawal deadlines for individual courses. When a student withdraws from a course, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student’s academic record with a “W” notation and counts toward the student’s attempted hours.

The course is not calculated in the student’s GPA or quality points. Students who withdraw from a course are

responsible for the full tuition and fees for that course. After the withdrawal deadline, students may not withdraw from a course and will be assigned the grade earned based on the course syllabus. A student-initiated

withdrawal will appear as an “F” on the student’s academic record in any case of academic misconduct resulting in a permanent “F”. For more information see the Withdrawal page.

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#withdrawal>

For your drop/refund or Withdrawal dates logon to your STUDENT HUB account and look at your

Student Detail Schedule.

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL

The Administrative Withdrawal (AW) notation is assigned when a student requests to be withdrawn from a

course due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances beyond the student’s control. Students may withdrawal themselves online through the withdrawal deadline. Students should meet with an academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a course. After the withdrawal deadline, students may submit a request for AW due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. For more information, see Administrative Withdrawal page. <http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#administrativewithdrawal>

INCOMPLETE POLICY

The Incomplete (I) notation may be assigned when a student who is achieving satisfactory progress in a course

and who has completed most class assignments is unable to take the final examination and/or does not

complete all class assignments due to unusual circumstances, such as hospitalization or disability. Incomplete

work denoted by the Incomplete “I” notation must be completed within one calendar year or earlier, at the

discretion of the faculty member. If the incomplete work is not completed within one year, the “I” notation will

convert to an “F.” Students must have completed at least 75% of the course work to qualify for consideration for an incomplete. The student must be passing the course in order to be granted an incomplete. The course counts toward the student’s attempted hours, does not count toward earned hours, and is not calculated in the GPA or quality points.

Determination of eligibility does not guarantee that an incomplete will be granted. Students who meet the

qualifications may request an incomplete from the faculty member who is teaching the course. The decision to

grant an incomplete is up to the faculty member or at the department chair’s discretion. The decision to grant an

incomplete as an accommodation based on a student’s disability shall be made by the faculty member or the

department chair, if the faculty member is not available, in consultation with the Director of the Access Center.

If an incomplete is granted, the student and instructor should fill out and sign an Incomplete Agreement form to

clarify what the student needs to do to complete the course.

For further information see the Incomplete notation page.

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#incomplete>

BEST GRADE STANDS

A student’s grades for repeated courses will be removed from GPA calculations up to 18 semester hours,

regardless of the original grade earned. If a student repeats more than 18 credit hours, the student may designate which of the course grades are removed from GPA calculations (up to 18 semester hours). Only the

best grade and its associated credit will be calculated in the GPA and earned hours totals. Other attempts for

the course will appear on the official academic record but will be annotated to indicate they do not count for

academic credit or GPA calculation. This policy applies only to courses taken at MSU Denver, and it does not

apply to courses designated as repeatable toward degree requirements. For more information see the Best Grade Stands page.

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301&hl=%22Best+grade+stands%22&returnto=search%23best_grade_stand#best_grade_stands>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As students, faculty, staff and administrators of Metropolitan State University of Denver, it is our responsibility to uphold and maintain an academic environment that furthers scholarly inquiry, creative activity and the application of knowledge. We will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We will demonstrate honesty and integrity in all activities related to our learning and scholarship. We will not plagiarize, fabricate information or data, cheat on tests or exams, steal academic material, or submit work to more than one class without full disclosure. For further information see the Academic Integrity <http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1302&hl=%22academic+dishonesty%22&returnto=search%23AcademicHonesty#AcademicHonesty> and Academic Dishonesty page.

<https://www.msudenver.edu/deanofstudents/studentconduct/academicintegrity/academicdishonesty/>

PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Metropolitan State University of Denver prohibits sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual assault or

sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and other forms of nonconsensual sexual conduct, including stalking and

electronic harassment. Forms of intimate partner violence, including dating violence and domestic violence, are also prohibited under this policy. Students, faculty, staff and visitors, should be able to live, study, and work in an environment free from sexual misconduct. It is the policy of MSU Denver that sexual misconduct in any form will not be excused or tolerated. Retaliation in any form for reporting such sexual misconduct or for cooperating in a sexual misconduct investigation is strictly prohibited and will be addressed as a separate violation of the Student Code of Conduct. This policy is promulgated under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000c). For further information, see the Title IX page <http://www.msudenver.edu/deanofstudents/sexualmisconducttitleix/> and refer to the Student Code of Conduct page. <http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1405&hl=%22sexual+misconduct%22&returnto=search>

ACCOMMODATIONS TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Metropolitan State University of Denver is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist

individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this class and are requesting accommodations, then you must first

register with the Access Center, located in the Plaza Building, Suite 122, 303-556-8387.

The Access Center is the designated department responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for

students with disabilities. Accommodations will not be granted prior to my receipt of your faculty notification letter from the Access Center. Please note that accommodations are never provided retroactively (i.e., prior to the receipt of your faculty notification letter.) Once I am in receipt of your official Access Center faculty

accommodation letter, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your accommodations. All discussions will remain confidential. Further information is available by visiting the Access Center website.

<http://www.msudenver.edu/access/>

CLASS ATTENDANCE ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students at MSU Denver who, because of their sincerely held religious beliefs, are unable to attend classes,

take examinations, participate in graded activities or submit graded assignments on particular days shall without penalty be excused from such classes and be given a meaningful opportunity to make up such examinations and graded activities or assignments provided that advance written notice that the student will be absent for religious reasons is given to the faculty members during the first two weeks of the semester. For further information, see the Class Attendance policies page. <http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1302#ClassAttendance>

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

Electronic communication (i.e., email and personal portal announcements) is a rapid, efficient and cost-effective form of communication. Consequently, reliance on electronic communication is expanding among students, faculty, staff and administration at MSU Denver. Because of this increasing reliance and acceptance of electronic communication, forms of electronic communication have become in fact the means of official

communication to students, faculty and staff within MSU Denver. This policy acknowledges this fact and formally makes electronic communication an official means of communication for the University. For more information, see the Electronic Communication policy page.

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1404&hl=%22official+means+of+communication%22&returnto=search%23Electronic_Communication_Policy#Electronic_Communication_Policy>

FRESH START

Students returning from a period of absence from MSU Denver may request that credit and grades from designated semesters previously attempted at MSU Denver not be calculated in GPA’s or total earned hours. If

such a “Fresh Start” is approved, all courses from designated semesters will appear on the official academic record but will be annotated to indicate they do not count for academic credit or GPA calculation. For more information, see the Fresh Start page.

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301&hl=%22Fresh+start%22&returnto=search%23freshstart#freshstart>