

PHH3400 Fall 2023

J. Biro (Griffin-Floyd 115) (jbiro@ufl.edu) (273-1804)

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the central doctrines of the most important philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We will read and discuss works, or parts thereof, by Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley and Hume. All these works are widely available, and any translation or edition will do for our purposes. Two volumes that contain all that we will cover (and more besides):

R. Cummins and D. Owens (eds.), *Central Readings in Modern Philosophy*

S. Cahn (ed.), *Classics of Western Philosophy*

(Both are easily found on the internet. Buy the cheapest copy you can find, regardless of edition.)

Our sources are also available on the internet. (I shall provide links.)

There will be two examinations and an optional paper. (More on these later.) Your grade in the course will be based on the best two grades you earn. Participation in class discussion may also be taken into account.

I do not check attendance but highly recommend it. It is essential that you read the text to be discussed before class and re-read it as soon after class as possible. When you read it before class, it is a good idea to try to write down briefly what you take the author's main claim and his argument for it to be. Then check after class to see if your understanding has changed or you if you had missed something important. If so, write down a new summary to which you can refer when preparing for the exams.

Office hours: Thursday 2:15 - 3:30 and by appointment

Tentative schedule

Aug	24	Overview	
	29	Descartes	-- <i>Meditation I</i>
	31		<i>Meditation II</i>
Sept	5		<i>Meditation III</i>
	7		<i>Meditation IV</i>
	12		<i>Meditation V</i>
	14		<i>Meditation VI</i>
	19	Spinoza	<i>Ethics I and II</i> Definitions and axioms
	21		
	26		
	28	Leibniz	<i>Monadology</i> (selections)
Oct	3		<i>Discourse VIII, XIII</i>
	5		
	10	First examination	
	12	Locke	<i>Essay</i> Bk I, Chs I, II
	17		Bk II, Ch II, 1-8
	19		Ch II, 1-2; Ch 6 1-2
	24		Ch VIII, 7-23
			Ch XII, 1-4, 6; Ch XXI 1-2
			Bk III, Ch III, 1-9
			Bk III, Ch III, 1-9 Bk IV, Ch II,
	26		1-3, 14
	31	Berkeley	<i>Principles</i>
Nov	2		
	7		
	14	Hume	<i>Enquiry</i>
	16		
	21		
	28		
	30		
Dec	5	(optional paper due)	
	14	Final examination	

From CANVAS:

To log in to the e-Learning site for this course, go to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>, click the **e-Learning in Canvas** button, and on the next page enter your Gatorlink username and password. You can then access the course e-Learning environment by selecting PHH 3400 from the **Courses** pull-down menu at the top of the page. If you encounter any difficulties logging in or accessing any of the course content, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-4537 or <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>. Do not contact the course instructor regarding computer issues.

Please note the following university policies:

ACADEMIC HONESTY. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICIES. Students are expected to attend class and to have done all assigned reading in advance. Failure to do so will adversely affect students' ability to perform well in this course. The use of laptop computers, smart phones, or other electronic devices during class is not permitted. Requirements for make-

up exams are consistent with university policies specified at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

GENERAL EDUCATION. PHH 3400 counts towards the Humanities (H) and International (N) General Education requirements. General Education Humanities courses provide instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. PHH 3400 accomplishes this by familiarizing students with the figures whose thought and activities shaped philosophy as a discipline and a way of life. Philosophy as a field is perhaps more engaged with its own history than most other fields of inquiry. Since philosophers continue to address many of the same problems that concerned their predecessors and continue to draw upon the concepts and methods they employed, an understanding of the history of philosophy is essential to doing philosophy. General Education International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the culture of countries outside the United States. In PHH 3400 we study philosophers from a number of different countries, writing in a number of different languages. The General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's) divide into three areas: CONTENT – students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline; COMMUNICATION – students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline; and CRITICAL THINKING – students analyze information carefully and logically from different perspectives. Students will satisfy these SLO by participating in class discussion and by taking two in-class exams designed to test students' command of the course content. They will also have the option to submit a paper; if they do, their grade in the course will be based on the best two earned.