

PHIL 128: History of Early Modern Philosophy
Section 01: TR 10:30-11:45
Douglass Hall 208

- Instructor:** Prof. Thomas F. Pyne
- Office Hours:** MW 10:00-11:00; T 12:00-1:00; R 3:00-4:00;
Other times by appointment.
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Faculty Website: <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/p/pynetf/>
- Required Text:** Ariew & Watkins. *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. 2nd Edition, Hackett (Indianapolis, 2009)
ISBN: 970-0-87220-978-7
- SacCT:** www.csus.edu/sacct/
- Faculty Website:** www.csus.edu/indiv/p/pynetf/

Course Description

Examination of the major developments in Western philosophy after the Middle Ages with emphasis on the period from Descartes to Kant. **Prerequisite:** 3 units in Philosophy. **Units:** 3.0

Course Objectives

- To understand the philosophical issues raised in the period 1500-1800 by the collapse of the 'Aristotelian Synthesis'.
- To examine the responses by Galileo, Francis Bacon, Descartes, and others to the need for a post-Aristotelian philosophy and a new Scientific Method;
- To understand the new foundations for knowledge proposed by Locke, Berkeley, Leibniz, and Hume required after the collapse of the Aristotelian Synthesis produced disagreement over the intellectual powers of human nature;
- To understand the depth of the new crisis of skepticism produced by Descartes and Hume, as well as the modern dissolution of that crisis in the "critical philosophy" of Kant.
- The course is designed to give a systematic introduction to the main issues raised in early modern philosophy.

- The course will focus on the relevance of early modern philosophy to contemporary philosophical concerns.
- Students will be required to read primary sources in translation.
- Students will be expected to understand the philosophical problems the authors are addressing and the solutions provided.

Students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate a developed ability to read and understand historical philosophical texts.
- Demonstrate a precise and detailed understanding of the views and arguments of the philosophers studied.
- Evaluate critically the concepts and arguments contained in the texts;
- Maintain and defend with reasons their own critical views on the philosophers.

Students will demonstrate their achievement of the course objectives and expectations through:

- Production of a journal incorporating class notes, reflections, and answers to study questions;
- Participation in in-class and online discussion;

Course Delivery

While PHIL 128 will be in most ways a standard lecture/discussion class, it will be ‘web-assisted.’ That is, we will be using some features of the SacCT 9.1 course management system.

SacCT 9.1 is a program designed for on-line college courses. Among other things, it serves as a location for course material, lecture notes, tests, papers, and discussions.

I will make important course content available, including lecture notes and other supplementary material.

You will be participating in discussions, and submitting papers through SacCT 9.1. In addition, you may communicate with me, as well as with other students in the class, through the SacCT Mail facility.

Access the Course

You will use your Saclink account to log into the course from the [SacCT Login page](http://www.csus.edu/sacct/) (<http://www.csus.edu/sacct/>).

If you do not have a Saclink account yet, please refer to the [Setting Up a Saclink Account](http://www.csus.edu/saclink/settingUp.stm) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/saclink/settingUp.stm>) to create a saclink account online.

To get started using SacCT, visit the [Student Resources](http://www.csus.edu/webct/student/) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/webct/student/>) where you can access Online Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, and other help resources.

Communications

The course will use the communication tools built into SacCT:

- Announcements: It’s a good idea to check for announcements from time to time during the semester

- Mail: You may send me (or a classmate) a message via the ‘Mail’ function. I will try to respond promptly. (I can’t vouch for the classmate.)
- Discussions: You will be expected to participate in discussions, whether in class or through the ‘Discussions’ function in SacCT.
- Calendar: Exams and due dates for papers will all appear in the Calendar.

Technical Requirements

To access a course in SacCT 9.1 you will need access to the Internet and an internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the Check Browser from your SacCT course. Refer to the [SacCT Browser Tune-up](#) page for instructions.

For help or to report a problem with SacCT 9.1 you can:

- Visit the [Student SacCT FAQ’s webpage](#)
- Submit a [SacCT Problem Form](#)
- Contact the University Help Desk at (916) 278-7337

Work for the Course

1. Journal (6% each) Brief analytical and critical pieces on designated questions, with room for your own thoughts.
2. Two exams (12% each) Essay questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions up to a designated point.
3. Discussion Contributions (10%)
You will be expected to make regular contributions to discussion, either in the class period itself or in the online ‘Discussion’ conducted in SacCT.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Journal Entries

Journal entries will be submitted in SacCT.

- Open the main page for PHIL 128;
- On the course menu select ‘Journal’;
- Open the correct journal, read the instructions *carefully* (you will be graded on the completeness with which you answer everything being asked);
- Click ‘Create Journal Entry’;
- Give your journal entry a title (required);
- You can write your journal entry directly into the ‘Entry Message’ box, or you may compose your journal entry elsewhere and copy it into the box. Please don’t attach your journal entry.
- Click on ‘Post Entry’ in the lower right-hand corner. The little green ‘Success’ banner should appear.
- Late journal entries will be penalized .5 point for every day late.

Exams

To take an exam in SacCT:

Enter SacCT at <https://online.csus.edu>;

- Open the main page for PHIL 128;
- Open 'Assessments' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin of the main page);
- Answer the questions (make sure you 'submit' each question as well as the entire exam).

You will have only one chance to take the exam, so check your answers before submitting.

Discussions

- Philosophy involves discussion and argument. It's the best way to explore philosophical questions, the best way to learn how to philosophize. So I will expect you to participate in the discussions. You will either receive full credit for participation (10%) or no credit, depending on how seriously you take your responsibility to make contributions. If I notice that you are not participating, I will let you know that I expect more.
- To participate in an online discussion:
 - Enter SacCT;
 - Open 'Discussions' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin');
 - Click on one of the topics; you will be able to read the other contributions;
 - You can contribute to the discussion by clicking 'Create Message'.

Grading

Journal Entries: Journal entries will be graded 5 – 0. Your average on the journals will be computed into the final grade thus:

Average	Scaled Score
5.0-4.5	100
4.49-4.0	93
3.99-3.5	91
3.49-3.0	89
2.99-2.5	81
2.49-2.0	79
1.99-1.5	71
1.49-1.0	69
.99-	61

Discussion: Discussion participation will receive either complete credit (100) or none (0). Periodically, I will post progress reports on your participation in the Gradebook. These progress reports are indications of what you would get at the end of the semester if you continue your present course. That grade does not 'count'; it's just information.

Final Grade: The final grade for the course will be determined by the weighted sum of the exams, quizzes, discussion, and papers.

Grading Criteria

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
100-94	A
93-92	A-
91-90	B+
89-84	B
83-82	B-
81-80	C+
79-74	C
73-72	C-
71-70	D+
69-64	D
63-62	D-
61-	F

Viewing Grades in SacCT

For reading quizzes you will be able to see your score as soon as you have submitted your quiz. For exams, and papers I will post the grades as soon as I have finished grading them. You can see your grades during the semester by going to 'Grade Center'.

Course Policies

Attendance

I expect attendance at every class meeting. If for some excellent reason you cannot make class, let me know – preferably in advance. If this is impossible, let me know by 5:00 on the day you miss, preferably by an e-mail message within SacCT. I will lower you a grade increment for every absence in which you fail to contact me the same day.

Class meetings will begin at 10:30 with roll. Be on time. No excuses. Anticipate. I will treat a pattern of late arrival as an unexcused absence.

I expect attention to the material during class periods. If there is a class discussion, I will serve as moderator; please wait to be recognized before making a contribution.

If you wish to ask a question, answer a question, or make a contribution to the class, please ask to be recognized. There is no excuse for conducting a private discussion during class time. I will treat a pattern of talking in class as an unexcused absence.

Late Work

For journal entries, the grade will be lowered .5 for every day it's late.

Since you have a week to take the exams, you have no excuses. No makeups.

University Policies

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures. The policy on Academic Honesty and other information regarding student conduct can be accessed from the [University Policy Manual](http://www.csus.edu/umannual/index.htm) (<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/index.htm>).

The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>.

The University has very helpful information on plagiarism at the [Library's Plagiarism Website](#).

Originality is an over-rated virtue in undergraduate papers, ranking well below unity, clarity, and cogency of argument. You can borrow other people's ideas and arguments all you like. You just need to *cite* them when you do. Use any method of citation you find comfortable and convenient. (I like MLA myself.) Don't borrow their *words*: you mustn't submit a paper consisting of a bunch of quotations. Since you can borrow ideas, you have no excuse for plagiarism except laziness.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD). For more information please visit the [SSWD website](http://www.csus.edu/sswd/) (<http://www.csus.edu/sswd/>). They are located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me *early* in the semester – within the first week. It is difficult and time-consuming to make certain accommodations in SacCT. If you wait until the first quiz or paper is due to announce your disability it may simply not be *humanly* possible to make the accommodation. You will then have to do as best you can.

A tendency toward procrastination is not a recognized disability.

University Resources

The CSUS Writing Center

The Writing Center provides encouraging, focused, and non-judgmental one-to-one tutorials in writing. Their tutors can help with writing at all points in the process, from initial planning and organizing through developing and revising a paper. You can bring the assignment to them for help.

Sac State Library

The Sac State Library’s webpage is <http://library.csus.edu>.

To find a book or periodical, click on “Eureka: Library Catalogue” under “Resources and Collections” or go directly to <http://eureka.lib.csus.edu/>

For a largely undergraduate institution, the Sac State library’s holdings and resources in philosophy are pretty good. I particularly recommend Sac State librarian Lisa Roberts’ website “Philosophy: Resources.” Two ways to find it: through “Research Guides” under “Resources and Collections”, or go directly to <http://library.csus.edu/guides/roberts/philoguide.htm>

Student Computing Labs

To access SacCT from campus, or use any of the other campus online resources, you can use the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. See [University Labs website](http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm) , that is, <http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm> for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

SacCT

SacCT is the course management system used on the Sac State campus for web-assisted courses. To access a course on SacCT, you must login from the [SacCT Login Page](https://online.csus.edu) (https://online.csus.edu).

To learn more about SacCT visit the [Student Resources](http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) webpage (http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) where you can view online Tutorials, FAQ’s and other help resources.

Que scais je?

- Montaigne

Course Schedule

(Numbers in brackets refer to pages in the textbook.)

Introduction: The Pre-Modern World			
All men by nature desire to know. - Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i>			
Week	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 T 9/2	T: Introduction: ‘Why is Common Sense?’ The Legacy of Antiquity	M: Reading: “Aristotelian Natural Philosophy”; Reading: “Medieval Philosophy and Culture”	T:
R 9/4	R: The ‘Three Middle Ages’	R: Reading: “Medieval Philosophers on Motion”	R:

<p>Part I. Three 'Crises of Reason'</p> <p>Hence it may easily be concluded that the assemblage of all the spirits must compose the City of God, that is, the most perfect city possible, under the most perfect monarch possible.</p> <p>- Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i></p>			
<p>Week 2 T 9/9</p> <p>R 9/11</p>	<p>T: The Crisis Reason in Religion and Politics</p> <p>R: The Reaction Against Aristotle</p>	<p>T: Reading: "Galileo's Paduan Dynamics" Reading: "Medieval Religion and Politics"</p> <p>R: Galileo, "Corpuscularianism"; Bacon, <i>New Organon</i>, Bk I</p>	<p>T:</p> <p>R: Journal Entry 1: The Medieval Aristotelian Synthesis due Thursday, September 11, 11:30 PM.</p>
<p>Part II: The Scientific Crisis Recognized</p> <p>The logic now in use serves rather to fix and give stability to the errors which have their foundation in commonly received notions than to help the search for truth. So it does more harm than good.</p> <p>- Bacon, <i>New Organon</i></p>			
<p>Week 3 T 9/16</p> <p>R 9/18</p>	<p>T: Descartes' New Method</p> <p>R: Descartes' Reconstruction of Philosophy</p>	<p>T: Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i>, 1,2,5</p> <p>R: Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>, I-II</p>	<p>T:</p> <p>R: Journal Entry 2: Galileo's Philosophy of Science due Thursday, September 18, 11:30 PM.</p>
<p>Week 4 T 9/23</p> <p>R 9/25</p>	<p>T: Descartes: God, the Origin of Ideas, Truth and the Origins of Error</p> <p>R: Descartes: The Material Universe and the Mind</p>	<p>T: Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>, III-IV</p> <p>R: Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>, V-VI</p>	<p>T:</p> <p>R: Journal Entry 3: Two Responses to Galilean Science due Thursday, September 25, 11:30 PM.</p>

Part III: Forking Paths and Alternate Possibilities Absolute space, in its own nature, without relation to anything external, always remains similar and immovable. - Newton, <i>Principia</i>			
Week 5 T 9/30 R 10/2	T: Leibniz: Why There is Something Rather Than Nothing R: Leibniz: A Proposed Metaphysics Suitable to the New Science	T: Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature; Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , Theses 1-7 R: Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature; Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , Theses 8-24	T: R: Journal Entry 4: Descartes' Account of Scientific Knowledge due Thursday, October 2, 11:30 PM.
Week 6 T 10/7 R 10/9	T: Leibniz: Metaphysics (cont.) R: Leibniz: A Counter-proposal to the Materialist Interpretation of Science	T: Leibniz, <i>A New System of Nature; Discourse on Metaphysics</i> , Theses 8-24 R: Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i>	T: R:
Week 7 T 10/14	T: Leibniz: A Counter-proposal to the Materialist Interpretation of Science (cont.)	T: Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i>	T: Journal Entry 5: Two Cartesian Novelties due Tuesday, October 14, 11:30 PM.
Part IV: The Crisis Comes to a Head 'God' is a common noun and not a proper name because it signifies in the concrete the divine nature, although God himself is neither universal nor particular. - Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i>			
R 10/16	R: Locke: Locke's Method; Simple Ideas	R: Locke, <i>Essay</i> , I.1-2, Bk.II, Ch.I-VIII	R: Midterm Exam Window Opens Thursday, October 16, 11:45 AM.
Week 8 T 10/21	T: Locke: Simple Ideas of Reflection and Complex Ideas; The Idea of 'Power' (The Philosophical Problem Misnamed 'Free Will')	T: Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Bk.II, Ch. IX-XIV; <i>Essay</i> , Bk. II, Ch. XXI	T:

R 10/23	R: Locke: Substance	R: Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Bk.II, Ch.XXIII	R: Midterm Exam Window Closes Thursday, October 23, 1:30 PM.
Week 9 T 10/28	T: Locke: Personal Identity	T: Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Bk.II, Ch. XXVII	T: Journal Entry 6: Leibniz's Response to Cartesian Dualism due Tuesday, October 21, 11:30 PM.
R 10/30	R: Locke: Thought and Language	R: Locke, <i>Essay</i> , Bk.III, Ch.III, VI	R:
<p>Part VI: A New Skepticism "Indeed, the old question – always pursued from long ago till now, and always raising puzzles – 'What is being?' is just the question 'What is substance?'" Aristotle (1028b3-5)</p>			
Week 10 T 11/4	T: Hume: Still Another Account of the Origin of Ideas	T: Hume, <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Sec. II-III	T:
R 11/6	R: Hume: Skeptical Doubts	R: Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sec. IV	R: Journal Entry 7: Locke on Substance due Thursday, November 6, 11:30 PM.
Week 11 T 11/11	T: Veterans' Day (Holiday)	T:	T:
R 11/13	R: The 'Skeptical' Solution of those Skeptical Doubts	R: Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sec. V. VII	R:
Week 12 T 11/18	T: Hume: Personal Identity. Free Will	T Hume, <i>Treatise on Human Nature</i> , Bk.I, Pt.IV; Sec.VI; Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sec. VIII	T: Journal Entry 8: Locke's Response to Cartesian Representation due Tuesday, November 18, 11:30 PM.

Part VII: Critical Philosophy In the Beginning was the <i>Deed</i> . - Goethe, <i>Faust</i>			
R 11/20	R: Kant: Hume's Attempt to Undermine Locke and Leibniz	T: Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , "Preface"	R: Journal Entry 9: Hume on Skepticism due Thursday, November 20, 11:30 PM
Week 13 T 11/25	T: Kant: The Sources of Metaphysics; Judgments Synthetic and Analytic	T: Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , "Preamble"	T:
R 11/27	R: Thanksgiving Holiday	R:	R:
Week 14 T 12 /2	T: Kant: The <i>A Priori</i> Forms of Intuition, or How is Mathematics Possible?	T: Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , "First Part of the Main Transcendental Problem"	T: Journal Entry 10: Kant on Humean Skepticism due Tuesday, December 2, 11:30 PM.
R 12/4	R: Kant: The Transcendental Deduction, or How is Scientific Knowledge Possible?	R: Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , "Second Part of the Main Transcendental Problem"	R:
Week 15 T 12/9	T: Kant: The Paralogisms of Pure Reason, or How is Metaphysics Possible?	T: Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , "Third Part of the Main Transcendental Problem"	T:
R 12/11	R: <i>Post-Modern Philosophy</i> – Is the Enlightenment Project Over?	R:	R: Final Exam Window Opens Thursday, December 11, 12:15.
Finals Week T 12/16	T:	T:	T: Journal Entry 11: 'Transcendental' Idealism due Tuesday, December 16, 11:30 PM.
R 12/18	R:	R:	R: Final Exam Window Closes Thursday, December 18, 12:15

The descriptions and due dates are subject to change for pedagogical reasons.