**Modern Philosophy**

**PHIL 3330.001**

**MWF**

**12:00-12:50pm**

**Instructor: Dr. Michael Thompson Term: Fall ‘25**

**Office: ENV 320e Room: HKRY 252**

**Hours: M/W 1-2:30, or by appointment email:** [**Michael.Thompson@unt.edu**](mailto:Michael.Thompson@unt.edu)

**TA: Alaina Smith**

**Office: ENV 334**

**Hours: M/R 4-5:30 email: Alaina.Smith@unt.edu**

**Course Description/Objectives:** With the ingenuity of Descartes, philosophy arrives at a new epoch- the Modern period. And yet, Descartes does not work within a vacuum, he has both his predecessors and those that build upon (and contravene) his works. The Modern period is marked by a resurgence of standard philosophical questions; metaphysical, epistemological, questions regarding ethics, human psychology, and faith. The figures during this epoch take nothing for granted and re-open inquiry into the several well-rehearsed philosophical issues of nearly 1500 years. This lively time finds an influx of literacy, publishing and science, thus marking for the first time in humanity whereby philosophy is moved largely from the classroom and leisure activities of landed gentry and is made available for the general public. The goal of this course is to re-open these inquiries, first studying the canonical responses and then critically evaluating the successes and failures of the varied responses. In addition to evaluating these arguments, students are expected to form their own opinions about these issues, express themselves, both verbally and in writing, and to demonstrate philosophical argumentation. The format for this course is lecture/dialogue/discussion.

**Required texts:** The required text for this course is:

Ariew and Watkins, *Modern Philosophy* ISBN 978*-*0872209787

**Grading:** Students will be evaluated in this course by the following methods:

Papers (3)………………………………………………………90%

Paper I (3-4pages)- 25%

Paper II (3-4 pages)- 25%

Final Paper (8-10 pages)-40%

Attendance/Participation………………………………………10 %

Late papers and homework will not be accepted. If you know in advance expected absences for religious observances or other reasons, please make arrangements with your professor.

Grading policy: this course is graded according to the requirements specified and weighted below.

A = 90%+

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

**Attendance:**

You are expected to be on time and attend every class. Attendance will be taken 5 minutes after the start time of class- if you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be counted absent for the day. Excessive absences will lower your grade. Owing to the contingencies of life, you are permitted 5 absences, after which each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter grade. If you are absent, there is no need for documentation explaining the absence- all absences will be treated the same (no difference between “excused” or “unexcused” absences). If you do not stay for the entirety of class, you will be counted absent.

**ADA statement:**

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. The Office of Disability Accommodation is located in Suite 321 of the University Union Building and can be reached at (940) 565 4323 and TTY (940) 369 8652 or through the Website at http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html

**Plagiarism Statement:** Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated in any academic setting. The UNT student handbook provides definitions, guidelines and consequences for both. Students that are caught **plagiarizing** or **cheating will receive an F** for the course and may face further academic punishment.

There are no approved uses of any AI, such as ChatGPT, or any other software or tool used to generate written content on your behalf or to check or revise content you have written.

**Any assignment completed with the help of AI will be treated as a case of plagiarism and be subject to the integrity policies above.**

Drop/Withdrawal Information, and other important Academic Dates can be found at

<http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html>

It is your responsibility to know and respect relevant deadlines.

**Schedule: Readings**

**Week 1**

Aug. 18 Introductions/Syllabus

20 Background/Scholasticism

22 Medievalism/Scholasticism Aquinas excerpt

**Week 2**

Aug. 25 Science and Faith Galileo excerpt

27 Faculty Psychology/Methodology/Bacon pp. 16-20

29 Descartes *Discourse* pp. 25-34

**Week 3**

Sept. 1 *NO CLASS-* Labor Day

3 Descartes *Discourse* pp. 25-34

5 Descartes *Meditation I* pp. 35-43

**Week 4**

Sept. 8 Descartes *Meditation II*  pp. 43-47

10 Descartes *Meditation III* pp. 47-54

12 Descartes *Meditation III*

**Week 5**

Sept. 15 Descartes *Mediation IV* pp. 54-58

17 Descartes *Meditation V* pp. 58-61

19 Descartes *Meditation VI* **Paper 1 Due** pp. 61-68

**Week 6**

Sept. 22 Spinoza *Ethics* pp. 144-154

24 Spinoza *Ethics* pp. 154-164

26 Spinoza *Ethics* pp. 164-187

**Week 7**

Sept. 29 Spinoza *Ethics* pp. 188-195

Oct. 1 Leibniz *New System* pp. 269-274

3 Leibniz *Monadology* pp. 275-283

**Week 8**

Oct. 6 Leibniz *Monadology* pp. 275-283

8 Locke *Essay* pp. 316-322

10 Locke *Essay* pp. 322-330

**Week 9**

Oct. 13 Locke *Essay* pp. 331-342

15 Locke *Essay* pp. 342-377

17 Locke *Essay* pp. 386-405

**Week 10**

Oct. 20 Locke *Essay* pp. 405-421

22 Berkeley *Three Dialogues* **Paper II due**pp. 454-474

24 Berkeley *Three Dialogues* pp. 475-484

**Week 11**

Oct. 27 Berkeley *Three Dialogues* pp. 484-503

29 Hume *Enquiry*  pp. 533-542

31 Hume *Enquiry* pp. 542-555

**Week 12**

Nov. 3 Hume *Enquiry* pp. 555-564

5 Hume *Enquiry* pp. 564-574

7 Hume *Enquiry* pp. 574-576

**Week 13**

Nov. 10 Hume *Enquiry* pp. 577-586

12 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 661-672

14 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 672-679

**Week 14**

Nov. 17 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 679-695

19 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 679-695

21 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 695-716

**Week 15**

Nov. 24-28 *NO CLASS-* Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week 16**

Dec. 1 Kant *Prolegomena* pp. 695-716

3 catch-up/review

5 Reading Day

**Wednesday, December 10 10:30am Final Paper due**