



PHIL*2160 Early Modern Philosophy: Reason vs. Experience

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 06, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries grappled with a central question regarding the foundation of human knowledge: Does knowledge arise from pure reasoning alone or from sensory experience? This question inspired debates regarding scepticism, the nature of reality, the connection between mind and body, language and meaning, moral certainty, and the relationship between religion and science, to name but a few.

Pre-Requisites: 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1030, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

This course will serve as an introduction to the major figures of the Early Modern Period in Philosophy, specifically of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries during which the so-called Scientific Revolution occurred. To properly appreciate this period, however, it will be necessary to understand what exactly its representative thinkers were rejecting in their attempts to formulate a new science. We will therefore devote the beginning of the course to examining the intellectual background of Early Modern Philosophy. Although the course will devote a significant amount of attention to the epistemology of the major early modern thinkers and their predecessors, the course we will also devote a fair bit of attention to developments in the areas of philosophy of mind, ethics, philosophical anthropology and political philosophy. Thinkers to be discussed will include well-known figures as René Descartes (1596-1650), Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), John Locke (1632-1704), and David Hume (1711-1776). Lesser known, though influential, authors to be treated will include Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592), Francis Bacon (1561-1626) and Francisco Suarez (1548-1617)..

1.3 Timetable

LEC Tues, Thur

10:00AM - 11:20AM

MCKN, Room 228

1.4 Final Exam

There will be no final exam for this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Peter Eardley
Email:	peardley@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53211
Office:	MCKN 333
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 PM

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	April Marratto
Email:	amarratt@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Early Modern Texts (Readings)

There is no textbook as such for this course. Instead, we will utilize a series of readings that will be uploaded to Courselink.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Understand, explain* and assess major conceptual developments in the history of philosophy, and their implications for issues in moral philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics.

2. *Identify and critically evaluate* the practical significance of central issues in moral philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, feminism, aesthetics, social and political philosophy and existentialism.

3. *Read and comprehend* original source materials in the history and problems of philosophy.

4. *Write* clearly and cogently on basic problems in philosophy.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

Schedule

Note: All readings are on Courselink.

January

07. Introduction to Course.

09. Scientific/Intellectual Background to Early Modern Philosophy: Aristotle, *Physics* and *Posterior Analytics* (excerpts), Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum* (excerpts) and Galileo, *The Assayer*.

14. Epistemology: Michel de Montaigne, *Apology for Raymond Sebond* (excerpts); René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* 1 and 2.

16. Epistemology: Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* 3 and 4.

21. Epistemology: John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpts).

23. Epistemology: Locke continued.

28. Epistemology: George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*.

30. Epistemology: David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpts).

February

04. Epistemology: Hume continued.

06. Philosophy of Mind: Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* 6.

11. Metaphysics: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*.

13. Politics and Human Nature: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts)

18. **WINTER BREAK: NO CLASS**

20. **WINTER BREAK: NO CLASS**

25. Mid-Term Exam

27. Discuss Paper Topic/How to Write a Philosophy Paper

March

03. Politics and Human Nature: John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (excerpts)

05. Politics and Human Nature: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*

10. Ethics: Hugo Grotius, *De iure ac pacis* (excerpts).

12. Ethics: Francisco Suarez, *On Law and God the Lawgiver* (excerpts).

17. Ethics: Suarez continued.

19. Ethics: Pierre Gassendi, *Three Discourses of Happiness, Virtue and Liberty* (excerpts).

24. Ethics: Gassendi continued.

26. Philosophy of Law: Samuel Pufendorf, *On the Duty of Man and Citizen*:

31. Quiz

April

02. Course Wrap-Up

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Mid-Term (Tuesday, February 25th) (35%)

Date: Mackinnon 228

Please Note: The mid-term will consist of a series of short-answer questions, true or false questions, and a long-answer question on the readings covered in class.

Term-Paper (Due Tuesday, March 17th) (30%)

Please note: The essay assignment will be distributed and discussed in class on Thursday, February 27. It will be due, however, by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 17. You may submit it to me either in class, or slide it under my office door (Mackinnon 333).

Quiz (Tuesday, March 31st) (25%)

Date: Mackinnon 228

Please Note: This quiz will not be cumulative. You will only be responsible for material covered after the mid-term.

Attendance and Participation (10%)

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
