



PHIL*2160 Early Modern Philosophy: Reason vs. Experience

Winter 2021

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 06, 2021

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

The course is broken into twelve units, each focusing on a major philosopher of the period, starting in the first half of the course with the rationalists, then moving to the empiricists and ending with Kant. The units will be relatively self-contained, having their own learning materials (readings, videos and other content) and assessments. Each unit will be released at the beginning of the week (Monday morning), with assessments attached to the units due at the end of the week (the following Sunday at midnight).

Every week begins with an Introduction, which is followed by the Learning Outcomes and Focus Questions. The Focus Questions are there to help guide your thinking when it comes to the assigned readings and other course content. It is strongly recommended that you review the Focus Questions before you begin the unit's assigned readings and other content.

The course is heavily focused on reading and interpreting early-modern philosophy texts. The readings and other learning materials will for the most part be embedded within the course, with the exception of some materials that you may need to access the Library's website to view. You can simply scroll through the materials in each unit to view them in order, and resources may be introduced or followed with professor commentary, as appropriate.

Each week's assessment, be it quiz or short writing assignment, will be introduced as part of the unit, but will also be available in the appropriate tab on the course's main menu, on the left of the course's website.

Every unit will end with a Summary and Checklist. This section summarizes the unit's key learnings and prompts you to revisit the unit learning outcomes as a way for you to check your understanding of the unit's materials.

1.3 Timetable

Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:50 (no required attendance; the time will be used for virtual office hours via Zoom)

Please note that the course is being run asynchronously. Scheduled class time will not be used for lectures and students are not required to attend during that time. Scheduled class time will be used for virtual office hours.

At-A-Glance Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings	Evaluation

1 <i>Jan. 11th to 17th</i>	General introduction to early-modern philosophy	NA	
2 <i>Jan. 18th to 24th</i>	Descartes	<i>Discourse on Method</i>	Quiz 1 (5%)
3 <i>Jan. 25th to 31st</i>	Descartes	<i>Meditations on First Phil.</i>	Question response 1 (5%)
4 <i>Feb. 1st to 7th</i>	Spinoza	<i>The Ethics</i> (selections)	Quiz 2 (5%)
5 <i>Feb. 8th to 14th</i>	Leibniz	<i>Monadology</i> and selections from other works	Question response 2 (5%)
Feb. 15th to 21st	READING WEEK		
6 <i>Feb. 22nd to 28th</i>	Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i> (excerpts)	Quiz 3 (5%)
7	Locke	<i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (selections)	Question response 3 (5%)

March 1 st to 7 th			
8 March 8 th to 14 th	Berkeley	<i>Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge</i>	Quiz 4 (5%)
9 March 15 th to 21 st	Hume	<i>Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding</i> (excerpts)	Question response 4 (5%)
10 March 22 nd to 28 th	Kant	<i>Prolegomena</i> and Preface to the 2 nd Ed. of the <i>CPR</i>	Paper (25%)
11 March 29 th to April 4 th	Kant	<i>Prolegomena</i> and Preface to the 2 nd Ed. of the <i>CPR</i>	Question response 5 (5%)
12 April 5 th to 12 th	Kant	<i>Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (excerpts)	Quiz 5 (5%)
April 15 th to 20 th	Take-Home Exam (25%) Assigned on the 15 th of April and due on the 20 th of April.		

WEEK 1: January 11

th to the 13th

Introduction to the course and to early-modern philosophy

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 1 Module

Assessments:

- NA

WEEK 2: January 18th to the 24th

Descartes and Rationalism 1

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 2 Module
- Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

Assessments:

- Quiz 1 (5%), Due: Jan. 24th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 3: January 25th to the 31st

Descartes and Rationalism 2

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 3 Module
- Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Assessments:

- Question Response 1 (5%), Due: Jan. 31st at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 4: February 1st to the 7th

Spinoza

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 4 Module
- Spinoza, *The Ethics* (excerpts)

Assessments:

- Quiz 2 (5%), Due: Feb. 7th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 5: February 8th to the 14th

Leibniz

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 5 Module
- Leibniz, *Monadology* and excerpts from other works.

Assessments:

- Question Response 2 (5%), Due: Feb. 14th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 6: February 22nd to the 28th

Hobbes and Materialism

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 6 Module
- Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts)

Assessments:

- Quiz 3 (5%), Due: Feb. 28th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 7: March 1st to the 7th

Locke and British Empiricism

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 7 Module
- Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (selections)

Assessments:

- Question Response 3 (5%), Due: March 7th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 8: March 8th to the 14th

Berkeley and Subjective Idealism

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 8 Module
- Berkeley, *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

Assessments:

- Quiz 4 (5%), Due: March 14th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 9: March 15th to the 21st

Hume

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 9 Module
- Hume, *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpts)

Assessments:

- Question Response 4 (5%), Due: March 21st at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 10: March 22nd to the 28th

Kant 1: Transcendental Idealism and Science

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 10 Module
- Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

Assessments:

- Paper (25%), Due: November 28th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 11: March 29th to April 4th

Kant 2: Transcendental Idealism and Metaphysics

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 11 Module
- Kant, *Prolegomena* and the Preface to the 2nd ed. of the *CPR*

Assessments:

- Question Response 5 (5%), Due: April 4th at midnight going into the next day.

WEEK 12: April 5th to the 12th

Kant 3: Deontology

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Unit 12 Module
- Kant, *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals*

Assessments:

- Quiz 5 (5%), Due: April 12th at midnight going into the next day.

Take-Home Exam (25%):

- **Assigned on April 15th, and due on Tuesday, April 20th at midnight going into the next day.**

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. It will be a take-home exam consisting of three essay-style questions. Details (questions, etc.) will be made available towards the end of the course in early April. The take-home exam will be assigned on April the 15th and will be due on April the 20th at midnight going into the next day.

2 Instructional Support

Instructor: Dr. Adam Langridge

Extension: NA

Email: alangrid@uoguelph.ca

Office: NA

Office hours: (See below)

Teaching Assistant: Ilknur Ozalli

Extension: NA

Email: iozalli@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

There are no texts that you are required to purchase for the course, although there are materials that you will be required to view in the form of text or video as part of each unit. Links to readings and videos will be made available on the course's website, organized into weekly folders that will sequence in as the course progresses.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand and explain rationalism and empiricism as they are exhibited in the work of the major philosophers examined in the course.
 2. Identify, explain and understand the perennial problems inherent in rationalism and empiricism.
 3. Identify and critically evaluate the arguments of the major philosophers examined during the course.
 4. Communicate in writing for the purposes of argument and explanation utilizing proper academic prose, and appropriate terminology.
 5. Identify and understand the ways the historical context of early-modern philosophy influenced the major works of philosophy in the time-period.
 6. Compare and contrast the various works of philosophy examined in the course.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Every week begins with an Introduction, which is followed by the Learning Outcomes and Focus Questions. The Focus Questions are there to help guide your thinking when it comes to the assigned readings and other course content. It is strongly recommended that you review the Focus Questions before you begin the unit's assigned readings and other content.

The course is heavily focused on reading and interpreting early-modern philosophy texts. The readings and other learning materials will for the most part be embedded within the course, with the exception of some materials that you may need to access the Library's website to view. You can simply scroll through the materials in each unit to view them in order, and resources may be introduced or followed with professor commentary, as appropriate.

Each week's assessment, be it quiz or short writing assignment, will be introduced as part of the unit, but will also be available in the appropriate tab on the course's main menu, on the left of the course's website.

Every unit will end with a Summary and Checklist. This section summarizes the unit's key learnings and prompts you to revisit the unit learning outcomes as a way for you to check your understanding of the unit's materials.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Unit assessments	Quizzes (5 @ 5% each)	25% (overall)
	Short writing assignments (5 @ 5% each)	25% (overall)
Paper		25%
Final Take-Home Exam		25%
	Total	100%

Writing assignments:

A short writing assignment (length will vary, but approx. 300 words per) will be part of every other unit (roughly). The questions, guidelines, submission folders and rubrics will sequence in on the course's site.

Quizzes:

There will be a quiz administered on Blackboard consisting of seven to ten multiple-choice questions and one short-answer question as part of every other unit. The questions will be drawn directly from readings the materials of the corresponding unit, and will be timed (You'll have 30 minutes to complete each quiz; I can give more time, if needed, but we'll see how it's going in the first few weeks).

Paper:

This is a standard term-paper assignment, and will be about ten pages in length (around 2,500-3,000 words). Details (rubric, due date, topics, etc.) will be available in the first few weeks of class under the "Assignments" tab.

Final Exam:

The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. It will be a take-home exam consisting of three essay style questions. Details questions, etc.) will be made available towards the end of the course in early April. The take-home exam will be assigned on April the 15th and will be due on April the 20th at midnight going into the next day.

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>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of

course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
