

UCF Philosophy Department
Dr. Mark Fagiano

Modern Western Philosophy

PHH 3460-0001

Class location: PSY 0111

Th/Th 12:00-1:15 p.m.

Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:30-12pm or by appointment

Office Location: PSY 244

Course Description:

This course explores the major figures and themes of modern philosophy. What is “modern” philosophy? What makes it different from, say, the ancient, premodern, renaissance, or postmodern traditions of philosophy? We will answer these core questions by exploring the modern era/tradition of philosophy beginning with Bacon and ending with Hegel. Specifically, we will focus upon the metaphysical and epistemological foundations of modern philosophers as well as the mechanistic and/or teleological models they endorsed.

Required Texts:

Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources.

Anthony Kenny. The Rise of Modern Philosophy

Recommended secondary source: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

Grading Details (Assignments and/or Tests/Exams):

- Participation=5%
- Online Discussion Posts=20%
- Midterm=25%
- Final=25%
- Final Paper/Project=25%

5% Participation—Your presence is expected at every class and your participation is both invited and necessary. Although the participation part of your grade is the easiest part to earn, you will lose percentage points if you miss more than **two classes**. Specifically, because your sentience, intelligence, and reflection are greatly desired at each and every class, every unexcused absence (after two) takes a **1/2 of a percentage point** off your final grade. Excused absences (see the full list below) must be supported with a note from your doctor, coach, family, etc. All other absences count against your final grade. **It will be impossible to pass this class if you miss class excessively.** More than just being present for each and every class, participation includes actively engaging with the material by asking question or making comments during class time, especially during small group discussions. ***Note also: if you do not have your book or other materials on a given class day, it is nearly the same as not being there and you will lose participation points.***

20% Online Discussion Posts—Each week, students will be required to enter a short analytical reflection/discussion post online. Each entry will be an answer to a prompt provided by the professor. For each discussion post, student's will defend at least two claims based on their critical analysis of the reading and in relation to the provided prompt.

25% Midterm—The midterm on **October 19th** will consist of short answer questions and essays prompts based on lectures, in-class discussions, and the assigned readings. The class day before the midterm will be entirely devoted to reviewing the material for the exam, and I post a list of testable concepts/ideas online before the review session. **Students MUST BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the MIDTERM.**

25%--Final—The final (T.B.A) will take place during our scheduled time. It will follow the same plan, structure, and format as the midterm. **Students MUST ALSO BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the FINAL.**

25% Final Paper—The prompt for the final paper (5-7 pages) will be released on **November 9th**. In the paper, you will write an argument based on the prompt. The final paper is due on **December 8th**.

Late Work, Absences: Late work will be penalized by one-half of a letter grade for each day they are late. Students with excused absences may be excused from penalty if the excuse is received promptly. Excuses received at the end of the semester may not remove late penalties for work assigned in advance of the excused period.

There are NO MAKE UPS for any parts of this course without an excused absence:

Legitimate Excuses: college-sponsored activities closely linked to academics or to other official college functions (administrative, athletic, etc.); student illness or injury—with a note from health services—as well as critical illness/death in one’s immediate family; jury duty (or subpoena for court appearance); religious holidays.

Laptops and Phones

Laptops and phone are allowed in class if and only if they are being used for taking notes or, in certain circumstances, for research. If you use your either your laptop or phone for other purposes in class (or your phone makes noise), it will be confiscated, then returned at the end of class. Repeated offense will result in a lowering of your grade.

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete will be given only in special circumstances such as an illness, an accident, or a death in the family.

Tentative Class Schedule:

		Session content	Material to be read prior to session
			Reading for 8/24 – Kenny: first half of chapter one
	Week One		
	8/22	Class One: Syllabus overview	Reading for 8/29: Kenny: second half of chapter one
	8/24	Class Two: What is Modern Philosophy?	Reading for 8/31 Lovejoy excerpt from Great Chain of Being

			Kenny: second half of chapter nine
Week Eight	10/10	Class Fifteen: Locke End	Reading for 10/17: NONE—Study for Midterm
	10/12	Class Sixteen: Hobbes v. Locke = Political Philosophy	Reading for 10/19: NONE
Week Nine	10/17	Class Seventeen: MIDTERM REVIEW	Reading for 10/24: A & K: 483-522 Kenny: first half of chapter eight
	10/19	Class Eighteen: MIDTERM	Reading for 10/26: A & K: 522- 557 Kenny: second half of chapter eight
Week Ten	10/24	Class Nineteen: Hume and Kant What is the Foundation of Morality? Hume’s Inquiry Part I	Reading for 10/31: A & K: 579-604

	<p>Week Thirteen 11/14</p> <hr/> <p>11/16</p>	<p>Class Twenty-five SMALL GROUP MEETINGS</p> <hr/> <p>Class Twenty-six: SMALL GROUPS—Final Paper</p>	<p>Reading for 11/21 Kenny: first half of chapter five</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 11/23 Kenny: second half of chapter five</p>
	<p>Week Fourteen 11/21</p> <hr/> <p>11/23</p>	<p>Class Twenty-seven: From the Modern into the Post- Modern Free Will</p> <hr/> <p>NO CLASS GIVE THANKS!!</p>	<p>Reading for 11/28:</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 11/30: NONE</p>
	<p>Week Fifteen 11/28</p> <hr/> <p>11/30</p>	<p>Class Twenty-eight: Space and Time Projects/Final Prep</p> <hr/> <p>Class Twenty-nine FINAL REVIEW FINAL TIME TBA</p>	

		FINAL Paper—Due—December 8th	
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Academic Honesty

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the University of Tennessee catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

1. The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (e.g., computers, mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.
2. Copying another's person work or participation in such an effort.
3. An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of the course with work other than one's own.
4. Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.
5. Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit or has submitted for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for the purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.
6. Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.
7. Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.
8. Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.