

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Early Modern Philosophy

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

2202F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh

Instructor Email(s): jmarsh26@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Perhaps no era has produced more geniuses and polymaths, or has more profoundly shaped the world, than the 17th and 18th centuries. In this course, we will critically examine selections from six philosophical works of this period:

- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641),
- Gottfried Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics* (1686),
- John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690),
- George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (1710),
- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1748),
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792).

Along the way, we'll explore some influential critiques of these works by Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and Thomas Reid – with occasional guidance from contemporary commentators, e.g., Namita Nimbalkar.

Learning Outcomes:

1. be critically acquainted with some of the major metaphysical and epistemological writings and controversies of the 17th and 18th centuries (KNOWLEDGE) (see syllabus for sample controversies);
2. present and defend one's own thoughts on one of these controversies, in writing, in the form of a sustained argument (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT);
3. cultivate intellectual virtues pertaining to argumentation, dialogue, interpretation, research and clear writing (to help with outcomes 1-3) (SKILLS).

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All texts/readings will be made available via OWL. A resource to know about:

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/texts>

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
1. Banned Books Assignment	10/01/2023	20%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
2. Research Paper	11/20/2023	30%
3. Exam	December Examination Period (Date: TBA)	30%
4. Active & Informed Participation	Weekly	20%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.