

- LSU / Spring 2015 / PHIL 2035: History of Modern Philosophy (revised 8 March 15)
- MW 4:30-5:50 / 109 Coates / <http://www.protevi.com/john/HMP/index.html>
- INSTRUCTOR: John Protevi / 416 Hodges / Office hours: MW 3-4 & by appt. / [protevi@lsu.edu](mailto:protevi@lsu.edu)
- TA: Joshua Heller / 312 Coates / Office hours: MW 3:30-4:30 and F 1:30-2:30/ [jhelle4@lsu.edu](mailto:jhelle4@lsu.edu)

WEEK	DAY	TOPIC	READING	NOTES
1	W 14 Jan	Course Intro	Power Point on course website	<a href="http://bit.ly/1AiyZt9">http://bit.ly/1AiyZt9</a>
2	M 19 Jan	NO CLASS		MLK DAY
	W 21 Jan	Pre-contact Americas	Maffie, "Aztec Philosophy"	<a href="http://bit.ly/1HlfMu3">http://bit.ly/1HlfMu3</a>
3	M 26 Jan	Spanish debates on conquest in the Americas	Hernandez, "Las Casas-Sepúlveda Controversy"	<a href="http://bit.ly/1HlfWBB">http://bit.ly/1HlfWBB</a>
	W 28 Jan	Cultural diversity	Montaigne, "Of Cannibals"	<a href="http://bit.ly/1HlgpUo">http://bit.ly/1HlgpUo</a>
4	M 2 Feb	Political freedom	La Boétie, <i>Voluntary Servitude</i>	
	W 4 Feb	Knowledge and doubt	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 1	
5	M 9 Feb	Body and soul	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 2	
	W 11 Feb	Proof of existence of God	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 3	
6	M 16 Feb	NO CLASS		MARDI GRAS
	W 18 Feb	Review for Exam 1		
7	M 23 Feb	Intelligent matter	Margaret Cavendish	<a href="http://stanford.io/1xBUNyN">http://stanford.io/1xBUNyN</a> MIDTERM 1 DUE
	W 25 Feb	God and nature	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 1 (selections)	
8	M 2 Mar	Attributes and modes	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 2 (selections)	
	W 4 Mar	Desire, joy, sadness	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 3 (selections)	
9	M 9 Mar	"Of Human Bondage"	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 4 (selections)	
	W 11 Mar	Freedom	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 5 (selections)	
10	M 16 Mar	Impressions and ideas	Hume, <i>ECHU</i> , 2-4	
	W 18 Mar	Custom and probability	Hume, <i>ECHU</i> , 5-6	
11	M 23 Mar	Causality and free will	Hume, <i>ECHU</i> , 7-8	
	W 25 Mar	Recap of Hume	Hume, <i>Abstract of THN</i>	
12	M 30 Mar	Kant's Ethics	Lecture	
	W 1 Apr	Kant's Political Philosophy	"What is Enlightenment?"	<a href="http://bit.ly/1Hlh606">http://bit.ly/1Hlh606</a>
	F 4 Apr			MIDTERM 2 DUE
13	M 6 Apr	NO CLASS		SPRING BREAK
	W 8 Apr	NO CLASS		SPRING BREAK
14	M 13 Apr	American slavery	Haynes, "Liberty Further Extended"	<a href="http://bit.ly/1HlhonA">http://bit.ly/1HlhonA</a>
	W 15 Apr	American slavery	Cugoano, <i>On the Evil of Slavery</i>	
15	M 20 Apr	American slavery	Cugoano, <i>On the Evil of Slavery</i>	
	W 22 Apr	Women's Rights	Wollstonecraft, et al.	
16	M 27 Apr	French Revolution	Wollstonecraft, et al.	
	W 29 Apr	Haitian Revolution	Lecture on "The black Jacobins"	
17	Sat 9 May	FINAL EXAM	Comprehensive exam	3:00 – 5:00 pm

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to major themes and areas of philosophy via readings in Modern philosophy (1550-1804).

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to identify and critically discuss the key concepts and issues covered in class readings and discussion (measured by quizzes and by exams).

## GRADING COMPONENTS:

Attendance 5%

Quizzes: 5%

Midterm 1: 25% (take home essay; upload to Moodle, which checks via TurnItIn)

Midterm 2: 25% (take home essay; upload to Moodle, which checks via TurnItIn)

Final Exam: 40% (in class essay; no early exams allowed)

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GRADING SCALE: 90 = A; 80 = B; 70 = C; 60 = D; < 60 = F

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend every class and to have done the reading before class.

NO EARLY FINAL EXAM: LSU has scheduled our final for Saturday May 9, 3:00 – 5:00 pm. I won't give early exams. DO NOT BUY PLANE TICKETS OR OTHERWISE MAKE PLANS.

ELECTRONIC USE: I recommend you take notes by hand (pen and paper), and later write a brief series of paragraphs that summarize the main points. However, it's really up to you how you study, so if you want, you can take notes on your laptop, and you can consult online sources during class for academic purposes (looking up definitions, for instance). You cannot use your laptop, phone, iPad, etc. for non-academic social media.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: group study is highly recommended, but you must take your exams by yourself. For details, consult these two LSU Statements: <http://saa.lsu.edu/academic-integrity> and <http://saa.lsu.edu/sites/saa.lsu.edu/files/attachments/9.pdf>

BOOKS ordered at the LSU Barnes & Noble Bookstore. (BN new book total = \$67.95.) I highly recommend you get these editions (they don't have to be new); it will be much easier for everyone.

de la Boétie, *Discourse on Voluntary Servitude* (Hackett: 9781603848398). \$9.45

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett: 9780872201927). \$8.50

Spinoza, *Ethics* (Hackett: 9780872201309). \$14.00

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett: 9780872202290). \$8.00

Cugoana, *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery* (Penguin: 9780140447507). \$16.00

Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Hackett: 9780141441252). \$12.00

READINGS other than the books will be available on Moodle or online (see links in the syllabus).

DO THE READING BEFORE EACH CLASS MEETING. We will use quizzes as a means of taking attendance.