

Syllabus 5.0
January 20, 2020

Spring 2020 / Louisiana State University
Philosophy 2035: History of Modern Philosophy (1492-1804)
TTh 10:20 am -- 11:50 am / 211 Tureaud
John Protevi / protevi@lsu.edu / 408 Hodges / Office hrs: TTh 12:00-1:20 and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to major themes and areas of philosophy via readings in Modern philosophy (1492-1804). This semester's theme will be "Freedom: Metaphysical, Moral, and Political." Readings from Montaigne, Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Rousseau, Kant, Wollstonecraft, Haynes, and Cugoana.

The dates 1492 to 1804 — from the European invasion of the Americas to the Haitian Revolution — are not the usual ones for a course of this type, which are usually pegged to the publication of books producing concepts of freedom that may or may not be adequate to historical realities we can reconstruct from other sources. Rather than such a "bibliocentric" dating approach, here I'm using dates of historical events that institute practices or "regimes of freedom" upon which philosophers might reflect, but too often distort or ignore. I will explain the significance of this change of focus many, many times throughout the course.

wk	DAY	TOPIC	READING
1	T 14 Jan	NO CLASS	GO TIGERS!
1	Th 16 Jan	Course Intro	Power Point on Moodle
2	T 21 Jan	Moderate humanist skepticism	Montaigne, "Of Cannibals"
2	Th 23 Jan	Knowledge and hyperbolic doubt / Body and soul	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 1-2
3	T 28 Jan	1 st Proof of existence of God	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 3
3	Th 30 Jan	Desire and motion	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> Intro, 1, 6, 10-11
4	T 4 Feb	State of Nature Civil Society	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> 13-16; 17-21; parts of 27 & 29
4	Th 6 Feb	God and nature Attributes and modes	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Books 1-2 (selections)
5	T 11 Feb	Desire, joy, sadness	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book 3 (selections)
5	Th 13 Feb	"Of Human Bondage" Freedom as Knowledge	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Books 4-5 (selections)
6	T 18 Feb	Review session	
6	Th 20 Feb	MIDTERM 1	

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7	T 25 Feb	NO CLASS – MARDI GRAS	MARDI GRAS
7	Th 27 Feb	Freedom and property	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> 1-5
8	T 3 Mar	Freedom and property	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> 7-9; 15
8	Th 5 Mar	Freedom in nature	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , 1.1-23; 34-53
9	T 10 Mar	Moving toward civil society	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , 2.1-34; 57-58
9	Th 12 Mar	Freedom in society	Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , 1.1-8; 2.3; 4.1
10	T 17 Mar	From common sense to philosophical moral thinking	Kant, <i>Groundwork</i> , Part 1
10	Th 19 Mar	From popular philosophy to metaphysics of morals	Kant, <i>Groundwork</i> , Part 2
11	T 24 Mar	SPRING BREAK	
11	Th 26 Mar	SPRING BREAK	
12	T 31 Mar	Review session	
12	Th 2 Apr	MIDTERM 2	
13	T 7 Apr	Women's freedom	Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication</i> Intro & Chapter 1
13	Th 9 Apr	Women's freedom	Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication</i> Chapters 2-3
14	T 14 Apr	Freedom and enslaved people in America	Haynes, "Liberty Further Extended"
14	Th 16 Apr	Freedom & trans-Atlantic trafficking of enslaved people	Cugoano, <i>On the Evil of Slavery</i>
15	T 21 Apr	Freedom & trans-Atlantic trafficking of enslaved people	Cugoano, <i>On the Evil of Slavery</i>
15	Th 23 Apr	Freedom and revolution	Midlo Hall, "The 1795 Pointe Coupee Conspiracy"
16	T 28 Apr	Freedom and <i>marronage</i>	Hooker, Review of <i>Freedom as Marronage</i>
16	Th 30 Apr	Review session	
17	W 6 May	FINAL EXAM (IN-CLASSROOM EXAM)	3:00 – 5:00 pm

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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 and Quizzes: 10%

Midterm 1: 25% (take home essay)

Midterm 2: 25% (take home essay)

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

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100 - 97; A = 96.9 - 93; A- = 92.9 - 90

B+ = 89.9 - 87; B = 86.9 - 83; B- = 82.9 - 80

C+ = 79.9 - 77; C = 76.9 - 73; C- = 72.9 - 70

D+ = 69.9 - 67; D = 66.9 - 63; D- = 62.9 - 60

F = 59.9 or below

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend every class and to do the reading before class. You get 3 points for a good answer to the daily quiz; 2 points for a fair answer; 1 point for a bad answer or just handing in the index card with your name on it; 0 points for non-attendance.

NO EARLY FINAL EXAM: LSU has scheduled our final for Wednesday, May 6, from 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 actively listen and take only brief notes by hand (pen and paper; just reminders), and then later write up 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 reasons.

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>

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BOOKS ordered at the LSU Barnes & Noble Bookstore. (Prices are for new print editions from Amazon; total = \$110.28. You can save money by buying used or renting.) I recommend you get these editions, as it will be much easier for everyone when it comes to referring to pages. Please note that you can get free PDFs of Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Wollstonecraft here: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com>. Other texts will be on Moodle.

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* / 9780872201927 / Hackett, \$10.00

Hobbes, *Leviathan* / 9780140431957 / Penguin, \$12.00

Spinoza, *Ethics* / 9780872201309 / Hackett / \$15.00

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* / 9780915144860 / Hackett, \$9.50

Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* / 978-1603846738 / Hackett, \$13.78

Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* / 9781107401068 / Cambridge, \$21.00

Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* / 9780141441252 / Penguin, \$13.00

Cugoano, *Thoughts & Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery* / 9780140447507 / Penguin, \$16.00

RESOURCES, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- LSU and Title IX: http://www.lsu.edu/hrm/policies_and_procedures/Title_IX_item71081.php
- LSU Cares: <http://students.lsu.edu/saa/lsu-cares>
- LSU Disability Services: <http://students.lsu.edu/disability>
- LSU Statement on Academic Integrity: <http://students.lsu.edu/saa/faculty/academicintegrity>
- LSU Student Advocacy: Understanding Plagiarism <http://students.lsu.edu/saa/students/plagiarism>
- Hints for success: <http://www.protevi.com/john/honorshints.html>