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Spring 2-1-2001

PHIL 252.01: History of Modern Philosophy

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Philosophy 252/History of Modern Philosophy
Spring 2001
Professor Deborah Slicer
L.A. 148/ 243-2527/ O.H.: M.W. 2:10-3, and by appointment

Philosophy 252 covers philosophical figures and movements from roughly the 16th century through the 18th century. We give special attention to debates in metaphysics and epistemology and somewhat less attention to politics, ethics, and religion. I have three primary goals in this course. First, I want to provide you with an historical context for the philosophical debates that characterize the modern period. Second, I want you to appreciate how the modern period significantly shaped the contemporary Euro-American worldview. And, third, you will learn to closely read and to thoughtfully critique philosophical arguments.

Please be advised of the following: (1) I don't accept late papers, unless attached to a doctor's excuse. (2) I consider group efforts plagiarism, unless I've specified the project a group one, e.g., the presentation debate. Please see me if you have any questions about plagiarism. (3) Class starts at 3:40 and ends at 5:00. Please come on time and don't leave early, unless you've notified me of some special need. Thanks. Let's be considerate of each other.

Texts:

The Philosophy of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Richard Popkin ed.
18th Century Philosophy, Lewis White Beck, ed.
An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, David Hume
Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Immanuel Kant
various reserve readings in the library indicated by "(x)" on syllabus

Assignments:

- 1/29 Hello and business
- 1/31 Lecture: Socio-historical context of the modern period
- 2/2 In Praise of Folly, Erasmus
Mundus Novi, Vespucci
Address to the Nobility, Luther
- 2/5 The Revolutions, Copernicus
Galileo, all
- 2/7-9 The Apology for Raimond Sebond, Montaigne
- 2/12 Bacon, all
- 2/14- Descartes
- 2/23
- 2/26 Elisabeth of Bohemia (x)
- 2/28 Descartes debate
- 3/2 Theologica-Political Treatise, Spinoza
- 3/5-7 Ethics, Part I, Spinoza
- 3/9 The Monadology, Liebzniz
- 3/12 Free day, study for exam

3/14 **Exam I**
3/16- Spring Break!
23
3/26 Voltaire, (x)
3/28- Essay...Locke
4/2
4/4 Locke debate
4/6- Treatise...Berkeley
4/9
4/11 Berkeley debate
4/13- Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Hume
4/20
4/23 Hume debate
4/25 The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, Blake (x)
4/27 Free day, study for exam II
4/30 **Exam II**
5/2-7 Prolegomena..., Kant
5/9 Kant debate
5/11 Wrap up
5/14 **Final Exam 3:20-5:20**

Requirements:

Exam I (March 14) 25%
Exam II (April 30) 25%
Final (May 14) 25 %
Debate Presentation 10 %
Summary Papers 15 %