

## PHIL 202W Renaissance and Modern Philosophy

Spring 2017  
T/Th 11:30-12:45 Anthropology 107

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Bowden Hall 110  
Tuesdays 1-2pm and by appointment

**Course Description:** The period from the Renaissance to the Late Eighteenth Century was a pivotal time in the history of Western philosophy, setting the terms for many of the intellectual controversies that have continued into this century. In this course, we will examine the major philosophical sources of these controversies, focusing mainly on the questions of epistemology and metaphysics (theories of knowledge and reality) and social and political philosophy (theories of sovereignty and freedom).

**Course Objectives:** Students will be able to develop a thematic and historical approach to the philosophical problems of the Renaissance and Modern Philosophy. Additionally, since this is a Writing Requirement class, students will learn to treat writing as a *process* whereby they are given opportunities to revise, edit, and rewrite their papers.

### Assignment Schedule

This schedule may change given our pace. Be sure to check your emails and Canvas (Daily Assignments) regularly to be updated on what is due each class.

Date	Reading	Assignments Due
<b>Unit 1</b>	<i>Basic Problems of Renaissance and Modern Philosophy: An Introduction</i>	
Jan. 10, T	Syllabus and Course Introduction	
Jan. 12, Th	Historical and Thematic Background Pico, <i>On the Dignity of Man</i>	Reading and Preparation
Jan. 17, T	Pico, cont'd.	Reading and Preparation
Jan. 19, Th	Pico, cont'd; Descartes, 1 <sup>st</sup> Meditation	Reading and Preparation
<b>Unit 2</b>	<i>Epistemology &amp; Metaphysics: Questions of Knowledge and Nature of Reality</i>	
Jan. 24, T	Descartes, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meditation	Reading and Preparation
Jan. 26, Th	Descartes, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meditation	Reading; Quiz #1 in class
Jan. 31, T	Elisabeth of Bohemia, <i>Correspondences</i>	Reading and Preparation
Feb. 2, Th	Elisabeth of Bohemia, cont'd; Locke, Introduction to <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	Reading and Preparation; 1 <sup>st</sup> Explanatory Paper topic and guidelines to be posted on Canvas
Feb. 7, T	Hume, selections from <i>An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding</i>	Reading and Preparation
Feb. 9, Th	Paper Q&A	1 <sup>st</sup> Explanatory Paper due by <b>Sunday, February 12 at 11:59</b>
Feb. 14, T	Hume, cont'd	Reading and Preparation

Feb. 16, Th	Hume, cont'd; Kant, selections from <i>Prolegomena</i>	Reading and Preparation
Feb. 21, T	Kant, selections from <i>Prolegomena</i>	Reading and Preparation
Feb. 23, Th	<b>NO CLASS</b>	See Canvas for Assignments
<b>Unit 3</b>	<i>Social and Political Philosophy: Questions of Sovereignty &amp; Freedom</i>	
Feb. 28, T	Machiavelli, selections from <i>The Prince</i>	Reading; Quiz #2 in class
Mar. 2, Th	Machiavelli, cont'd	Reading and Preparation
Spring Break		
Spring Break		
Mar. 14, T	Machiavelli, cont'd; Hobbes, selections from <i>The Leviathan</i>	Reading and Preparation; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Explanatory Paper topic and guidelines to be posted on Canvas
Mar. 16, Th	Hobbes, cont'd	Reading; Quiz #3 in class
Mar. 21, T	Hobbes, cont'd; Locke, selections from <i>Second Treatise on Civil Government</i>	Reading and Preparation
Mar. 23, Th	Locke, cont'd	Reading and Preparation
Mar. 28, T	Locke, cont'd; Rousseau, selections from <i>Discourse on Inequality</i>	Reading and Preparation
Mar. 30, Th	Rousseau, cont'd; Paper Q&A	2 <sup>nd</sup> Explanatory paper due by <b>Sunday, April 2 at 11:59pm</b>
Apr. 4, T	Rousseau, selections from <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> and selections from <i>The Social Contract</i>	Reading and Preparation; Final Paper Topics and Guidelines to be posted on Canvas
Apr. 6, Th	Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , cont'd	Reading; Quiz #4 in class
Apr. 11, T	Rousseau, selections from <i>Emile</i> ; Wollstonecraft, selections from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>	Reading and Preparation
Apr. 13, Th	Wollstonecraft, cont'd; Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"	Reading and Preparation
Apr. 18, T	Kant, cont'd	Reading and Preparation
Apr. 20, Th	Recap and Final Paper Workshop	
May 1, M	<b>Final paper due by 11:59pm</b>	<b>Online - Canvas</b>