

Philosophy C119/219: Topics in Modern Philosophy
Summer Session C 2001, TR 1:00 – 3:05 PM, Dodd 162

Instructor: Ben Caplan
Office: Dodd 362
Office hours: R 3:30-4:30 PM, or by appointment
Phone: 825-6200
Email: bcaplan@ucla.edu
Course webpage: http://ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu/classes/philosc119_sem1_011/
Teaching assistant: Joe Hwang

Required text

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy: With Selections from the Objections and Replies*, 1641, trans. and ed. John Cottingham, 1986, 2nd ed., Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

We will be discussing the text in detail. So you should get a copy of this translation and bring it with you to class.

Additional readings for students enrolled in either C119 or C219 are available in a course reader, to be purchased from the Main Office of the Philosophy Department (in Dodd 321). Additional readings for students enrolled in C219 are available in a course folder, to be found in the Copy Room of the Philosophy Department (in Dodd 335).

Course requirements

For C119:

First assignment:	5-page paper	30%
Second assignment:	5-page paper	30%
Take-home final		40%

For C219:

First assignment:	5-page paper	20%
Second assignment:	8-page paper	40%
Take-home final		40%

or:

Seminar paper	100%
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To pass the course, you must complete both assignments and the final. Participation can help your grade in the following limited way: in borderline cases, it can bump you up at most 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+).

Due dates

The first assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 21 August 2001 (which is the beginning of the third week). The second assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 4 September 2001 (which is the beginning of the fifth week). The take-home final is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, 13 September 2001 (which is the end of the sixth week).

Late policy

Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per 24-hour period; and, since this is a very short summer course, papers will not be accepted if they are more than 48 hours late. For example, a first assignment that is handed in after 1 PM on Tuesday, 21 August 2001 but before 1 PM on Wednesday, 22 August 2001 and that would otherwise have received a B+ will receive a B. And the first assignment will not be accepted after 1 PM on Thursday, 23 August 2001.

The final exam is not a paper; it is an exam. No late finals will be accepted.

To pass the course, you must complete both assignments and the final. No paper will be accepted if it is more than 48 hours late. And no final will be accepted if it is late. So, if you hand in any paper more than 48 hours late, or if you hand in the final late, you will not pass the course.

Exceptions can be made in the case of documented medical, psychological, or other exceptionally dire emergencies.

Academic dishonesty

It is difficult to overstate the importance of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is the sort of offense that can result in (and has resulted in) expulsion. So don't commit acts of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about what counts as academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism), ask. You are responsible for knowing the UCLA regulations.

TEXTS AND READINGS

1. Standard Editions

French and Latin

AT Adam, Charles and Paul Tannery, eds. 1964-1976. *Oeuvres de Descartes*. 13 vols. 1897-1913. 2nd ed. Paris: Vrin/CNRS.

English

CSM I-II Cottingham, John, Robert Stoothoff, and Dugald Murdoch, trans. 1985. *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Vols. 1 and 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

CSMK Cottingham, John, Robert Stoothoff, Dugald Murdoch, and Anthony Kenny, trans. 1991. *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Vol. 3 (*The Correspondence*). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

C Descartes, René. 1641. *Meditations on First Philosophy: With Selections from the Objections and Replies*. Trans. and ed. John Cottingham. 1986. 2nd ed. Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

The page numbering for the *Meditations* (but not for the *Objections and Replies*) in C is the same as in CSM II. The translation has been altered in a few places.

2. Readings for C119

The readings for C119 include each of the six Meditations (AT VII: 17-90; CSM II: 12-62). There are additional readings. Items marked with an ‘*’ are in the course reader. Unmarked items are in C.

Introduction and Background

Descartes, Dedicatory letter to the Sorbonne (AT VII: 1-6; CSM II: 3-6)

Descartes, “Preface to the reader” (AT VII: 7-10; CSM II: 6-8)

Descartes, “Synopsis of the following six Meditations” (AT VII: 12-16; CSM II: 9-11)

*Descartes, Letter to Mersenne, 28 January 1641 (AT III: 293-298; CSMK: 171-173)

* Descartes, Introduction to the French translation of *Principles of Philosophy* (AT IX: 1-20; CSM I: 179-190)

*John Cottingham, *Descartes* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1986), 1-21

First Meditation

*Thomas Hobbes, Excerpt from the Third Set of Objections with Replies (AT VII: 195; CSM II: 137)

*Descartes, Excerpt from the Third Set of Objections with Replies (AT VII: 196; CSM II: 137)

Second Meditation

Pierre Gasendi, Excerpt from the Fifth Set of Objections (AT VII: 258-259; CSM II: 180; C: 68)

Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Fifth Set of Objections (AT VII: 352; CSM II: 244; C: 68)

Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Second Set of Objections (AT VII: 140-141; CSM II: 100; C: 68)

Third Meditation

*David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature: Being an Attempt to Introduce the Experimental Method of Reasoning into Moral Subjects*, 1740, ed. L. Amherst Selby-Bigge and Peter H. Nidditch, 1888, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1978), Book I Part III Section III

Fourth Meditation

Gassendi, Excerpt from the Fifth Set of Objections (AT VII: 312-315; CSM II: 217-219; C: 90-92)

Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Fifth Set of Objections (AT VII: 376-377; CSM II: 259; C: 92)

Antoine Arnauld, Excerpt from the Fourth Set of Objections (AT VII: 214; CSM II: 150; C: 106)

Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Fourth Set of Objections (AT VII: 245-246; CSM II: 171; C: 106)

*Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Second Set of Objections (AT VII: 140-146; CSM II: 100-105)

Note: There is a part—specifically, AT VII: 143-146; CSM II: 102-105—of the last excerpt that is also in C: 104-106. But not all of it is in C.

Sixth Meditation

Arnauld, Excerpt from the Fourth Set of Objections (AT VII: 199-203; CSM II: 140-143; C: 107-110)

Descartes, Excerpt from the Replies to the Fourth Set of Objections (AT VII: 223-227; CSM II: 157-159; C: 110-112)

3. Readings for C219

The readings for C219 include the readings for C119. There are additional readings, which are in the course folder.

Introduction and Background

Daniel Garber, “*Semel in vita*: The Scientific Background to Descartes’ *Meditations*,” *Essays on Descartes’ Meditations*, ed. Amélie Oksenberg Rorty, Major Thinkers 4 (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1986), 81-116

Margaret Dauler Wilson, *Descartes*, *The Arguments of the Philosophers* (London: Routledge, 1978), 1-49

First Meditation

John Carriero, “The First Meditation,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 68.3-4 (Sept.-Dec. 1987): 222-248

John Carriero, “Painting and Dreaming in the First Meditation,” *Acta Philosophica Fennica* 64 (1999): 13-46

Second Meditation

John Carriero, “The Second Meditation and the Essence of Mind,” *Essays on Descartes’ Meditations*, ed. Amélie Oksenberg Rorty, Major Thinkers 4 (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1986), 199-221

Saul A. Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*, 1970 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980), 34-39

Fourth Meditation

Fred Feldman, “Epistemic Appraisal and the Cartesian Circle,” *Philosophical Studies* 27.1 (Jan. 1975): 37-55

Fifth Meditation

Peter van Inwagen, *Metaphysics*, *Dimensions of Philosophy* (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1993), 75-99

Sixth Meditation

Margaret Dauler Wilson, “Descartes: The Epistemological Argument for Mind-Body Distinctness,” *Noûs* 10.1 (March 1976): 3-15