

History 419
Fall 201
Dr. Ada Palmer
Texas A&M University

PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS

European Intellectual History from the High Middle Ages to the 17th Century

Office: Glasscock (HIST) Building
Virtual Office Hours: adapalmer@tamu.edu

Course Description

Western thought from the founding of universities to the emergence of 17th-century rationalism. The course rethinks the origins of modern philosophy, normally seen as the work of a group of magisterial 17th century thinkers, as an evolutionary process emerging over the course of six centuries, radicalized by the religious and cultural revolutions of the 16th century. Readings in Anselm, Abelard/Heloise, Maimonides, Aquinas, Ockham, Machiavelli, More, Luther, Montaigne, Bacon, Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Bayle.

Prerequisites

Junior or senior classification

Reading List

Note: We will read selections from many of these books, as specified on the course schedule. All readings are on reserve in the Evans Library.

Textbooks

- John Marenbon, *Later Medieval Philosophy (1150-1350) An Introduction* (Routledge) 041506807X.
Eugene F. Rice, jr. and Anthony Grafton, *Foundations of Early Modern Europe* (Norton) 0393963047.
H. Parkinson, ed., *The Routledge History of Philosophy vol. 4: The Renaissance and 17th Century Rationalism* (Routledge, 2003), 0415308763 Assigned: chh 1-9.

Texts

- The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, tr. Betty Radice (Penguin) 0140448993
Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed* tr. C. Rabin (Hackett) 0872203247
Thomas Aquinas, *Selected Philosophical Writings* (Oxford, 1998) 0192835858
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ed. Skinner and Price (Cambridge 1988). 0521349931
Thomas More, *Utopia*, tr. Paul Turner (Penguin Classics). 0140449108
Martin Luther, *Three Treatises* (Fortress, 1990). 0800616391

Montaigne, *Apology for Raymond Sebond* (Penguin, 1988). 0140444939
Francis Bacon, *Selected Philosophical Works* (Hackett, 1999) 0-87220-470-7
Descartes, *Meditations*, ed. John Cottingham (Cambridge, 1996). 0521558182
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Richard Tuck (Cambridge, 1996). 0521567971

E-Reserve Texts

St. Anselm's Ontological Proof, from *A Scholastic Miscellany: Anselm to Ockham*
(*Library of Christian Classics* (Ichthus ed. 1982) 0664244181.
Bayle, *Historical and Critical Dictionary, Selections*, tr. Popkin (Hackett, 1991)
0872201031. Articles on Bunel, David, Guarini, Hipparchia, Jonas, Jupiter,
Lacydes, Leucippus, Manicheans, Naples, Pyrrho, Spinoza, Zeno of Elea, Zeno
the Epicurean.

Requirements (see the course schedule for specific dates)

1. Two papers, 5 pages each (1,500 words), on a subject of your choice related to the readings. Papers should be analytical (i.e., question-oriented), not mere summary. Students are encouraged to see the instructor during office hours to discuss their topics. **(40%--or 20% each)**.
2. Midterm examination, consisting of several identifications and two essay questions, covering the first half of the course **(20%)**.
3. Final examination, consisting of several identifications and two essay questions, covering the second half of the course **(30%)**.
4. Discussion **(10%)**.

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students will be penalized after more than three absences, except in the case of university-excused absences. For each unexcused absence after that, your final grade will be dropped by ten percentage points. Assignments that are submitted late will receive a grade of zero except in the case of university-excused absences or by prior arrangement with the instructor.

Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

ADA:

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

Plagiarism:

Academic Integrity: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

Course Schedule

Note: The reading for each week should be done *prior* to Tuesday's class.

WEEK 1

Sept 1 Introduction: Medieval and Modern
3 From Schools to Universities, the Education of a Cleric
Reading: Marenbon, ch 1-4

WEEK 2

Sept 8 St. Anselm, the Ontological Proof of the Existence of God
10 Abelard and Scholasticism
*Reading: Anselm *Ontological Proof*; *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise**

WEEK 3

Sept 15 Maimonides: The Knowledge of God
17 Aquinas I: Faith and Reason; the Nature of God
*Reading: Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed* (I i-ii, xxxi-xxxv, l-ii, liv-lviii; II i, xiii-xix, xxii, xxv), Marenbon, ch 5*

WEEK 4

Sept 22 Aquinas II: Human nature; the Soul; Beatitude

24	Trends in Fourteenth-Century Scholasticism Reading: Aquinas, <i>Select Writings</i> , Marenbon, ch 6-7
WEEK 5	
Sept 29	Ockham I: Theory of Language, Epistemology
Oct 1	Ockham II: Voluntarism and Ethics; Desiring God Reading: Four arguments about the existence of God (Anselm, Maimonides, Thomas, Scotus, Ockham; e-reserve), Marenbon, ch. 11 and Conclusion to Part II
WEEK 6	
Oct 6	The Humanist Movement
8	The Revival of Ancient Philosophy and Religion Reading: Ockham, <i>Quodlibets</i> , Rice, <i>Foundations</i> , ch 1, 3
WEEK 7	
Oct 13	Machiavelli and the Origins of Political Science
15	MIDTERM Reading: Machiavelli, <i>Prince</i> , Rice, <i>Foundations</i> , ch 4; Parkinson, ch 1, 2
WEEK 8	
Oct 20	The Intellectual Impact of the Discovery of the New World
22	The Reformation: Origins and Effects Reading: More, <i>Utopia</i> , Rice, <i>Foundations</i> , ch 5, 6
WEEK 9	
Oct 27	Luther and Christian Freedom
29	Printing and its Consequences Reading: Luther, "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation," from <i>Three Treatises</i>
WEEK 10	
Nov 3	Atheism, Skepticism, and Philosophical Religion
5	Galileo and Experimental Science Reading: Montaigne, <i>Apology for Raymond Sebond</i> , Parkinson ch 3
WEEK 11	
Nov 10	Bacon and the Reform of Science
12	The Academy of Sciences Reading: Bacon, <i>New Atlantis</i> (complete) and <i>Great Instauration I</i> ; Parkinson, ch 4, 5
WEEK 12	
Nov 17	Descartes and the "New Philosophies"

19 Descartes' *Meditations*, Truth Through God
 Reading: Descartes, *Meditations*, Parkinson, ch 6

WEEK 13

Nov 24 Hobbes I: Science and Ethics
26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
 Reading: *Leviathan*, books I and II, Parkinson, 7, 8, 9

WEEK 14

Dec 1 Hobbes II: Political Theory; Government without God
3 Locke: Politics and Society
 SECOND PAPER DUE

REDEFINED DAY

Week 15 Tu Paths toward Modernity

See the Course Schedule for the date and time for the FINAL EXAM.