

John Morrison

INSTRUCTOR

Created all course materials, including syllabus, lectures, essay topics, and exams.

History of Modern Philosophy (Summer 2005, NYU)

Co-taught with another graduate student.

Topics I covered: Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy* and *Principles of Philosophy* and Leibniz's *Monadology* and *Correspondence with Clarke*.

Introduction to Logic (Summer 2003, University of Pittsburgh)

Topics covered: logical concepts; translating sentences of English into sentential and predicate logic; semantics of sentential and predicate logic; natural deduction systems in sentential and predicate logic.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Responsibilities included leading discussion sections, holding office hours, grading and commenting on student papers and exams.

Conversations of the West (Fall 2007, NYU)

Professor Don Garrett

Topics covered in lecture and recitation: *Genesis*; *Exodus*; *Job*; Sophocles's *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Antigone*; Plato's *The Republic*; Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*; *Luke*; Augustine's *Confessions*; Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise*; Rousseau's *Emile*; Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*; Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*; Goethe's *Faust*.

History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2006, NYU)

Professor Don Garrett

Topics covered in lecture (there were no recitations): Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Spinoza's *Ethics*; Leibniz's *Monadology*; Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*; Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*; Hume's *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding*; Kant's *Prolegomena*.

Introduction to Logic (Fall 2002 - Spring 2004, University of Pittsburgh)

Professors Mickey Perloff and Mark Wilson

Topics covered in lecture and recitation: logical concepts; translating sentences of English into sentential and predicate logic; semantics of sentential and predicate logic; natural deduction systems in sentential and predicate logic.

STUDENT
EVALUATIONS

NYU

5 = strongly agree 4 = agree 3 = 50/50 2 = disagree 1 = strongly disagree	History of Modern Summer 2003	Conversations Fall 2007
Number of respondents	11	23
Overall, the instructor is a good teacher.	4.18	3.87
The instructor presents the material in a stimulating way.	3.82	3.65
The instructor presents the material in a clear way.	3.55	4.00
The instructor is well-prepared and well-organized.	4.36	4.13
The instructor is receptive to questions and responds well to them.	4.36	4.30
The instructor is available for consultation.	4.00	4.32
The instructor gives helpful comments on written work.	4.09	3.78
The instructor treats students respectfully and considerately.	4.45	4.22
The instructor's grading is fair.	3.91	4.00
Compared with other courses, the work-load is demanding.	3.73	4.13
I have learned a lot in this course.	4.18	3.63
All things considered, this has been a good course.	4.18	3.38

Pittsburgh

10 = excellent 5 = average 1 = terrible	Introduction to Logic Fall 2002	Introduction to Logic Fall 2003
Number of respondents	27	26
Rate the helpfulness of recitations as a whole.	9.04	9.37

NOTE: There were no TA evaluations for History of Modern Philosophy in Spring 2006, the University of Pittsburgh no longer has evaluations for Introduction to Logic in Spring 2003 or Spring 2004 and the evaluations for Introduction to Logic in Summer 2003 weren't quantitative but are available upon request.

Early Modern Philosophy

Summer 2005

OVERVIEW The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries constitute one of the most philosophically fertile periods of Western thought. Revolutionary developments in natural science generated the issues that continue to dominate philosophical discussion. This course is designed to offer students an opportunity to understand the intellectual life of the period through a study of the writings of six of its most important philosophers. It will also provide students with the opportunity to develop their own philosophical skills through the careful analysis and assessment of those writings.

INSTRUCTORS John Morrison, jrm377@nyu.edu, the first three weeks
Karl Schafer, kds235@nyu.edu, the last three weeks

REQUIREMENTS (1) *Assignments*

Following each week of classes, a three-page paper is due that Saturday by 11:59 PM. Each paper will be graded out of 17 points. You must e-mail the paper to whichever instructor was responsible for presenting that week's material. The paper should address some issue or text from that week. Ideally, you should select a particular argument from the text, describe its role in the author's larger argument, carefully formulate it with citations to the text, and briefly develop a criticism.

Papers should be double-spaced, in size 12 of Times New Roman font. The paper should be in .pdf, .dvi, .txt or .doc format.

(2) *Attendance*

Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed two absences.

(3) *Behavior*

You must treat other students with respect. Thoughtful and consistent participation required.

GRADING Your final grade will be determined by the following process:

(1) We will sum your paper grades.

(2) Depending on the quality of your participation in class, we will add or subtract up to three points.

(3) If you miss 3 classes, we will automatically lower your score 5 points. If you miss

4 classes, we will automatically lower your score by 20 points. If you miss 5 classes, you will automatically fail.

(4) We will use the standard distribution of letter grades. For instance, any student whose point total falls between 83 and 87 will receive a B. We expect the median grade to be between B- and B.

SCHEDULE

The schedule and readings are likely to change as the semester progresses. For readings discussed in the first three weeks, all page numbers are to photocopies that John will distribute the preceding class. For readings discussed in the last three weeks, all page numbers are to Ariew and Watkins (eds.) *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*.

WEEK 1: DESCARTES

1. Introduction
2. Skepticism: Meditation 1, selections from *Objections and Replies*, selections from *Principles of Philosophy*.
3. Skepticism: Stroud, "The Problem of the External World"
4. Cogito Sum: Meditation 2, selections from *Objections and Replies*

WEEK 2: DESCARTES

1. No class - July 4
2. God and the truth rule: Meditation 3
3. Clear and distinct ideas: Meditation 4, selections from *Principles of Philosophy*, Meditation 5
4. Mind-Body Dualism: Meditation 6, selections from *Principles of Philosophy*, selections from *Comments on a Certain Broadsheet*, selections from *Passions of the Soul*

WEEK 3: LEIBNIZ

1. His methodology and theory of ideas: *Monadology*
2. Introduction to Monads: *Monadology*, selections from Adams's *Leibniz: Determinist, Theist, Idealist*, preface to *New Essays on Human Understanding*
3. Mind-body dualism, God, and monads: *Principles of Nature and Grace, Based on Reason*
4. Space and time: selections from *Correspondence with Clarke*

WEEK 4: LOCKE

1. The Empiricist Understanding of Philosophy / Innate Ideas (270-276)
2. Locke's Theory of Ideas (276-300)
3. Personal Identity (312-329)
4. The Limits of Knowledge (339-358, 363-367)

WEEK 5:

BERKELEY AND
HUME

1. Thought and Language and Berkeley's Critique of Locke (462-470)
2. Idealism vs. Materialism (470-477)
3. Hume's Empiricism (491-499)
4. Induction and Necessary Connection (499-522)

WEEK 6:

HUME AND
KANT

1. Freedom of the Will (522-534)
2. Miracles and Testimony (534-543)
3. The Nature of Mathematical Knowledge (578-597)
4. The Limits of Metaphysics (612-633)