

Department of Philosophy

01:730: 307 Descartes, Locke and the Seventeenth Century

Instructor Martha Bolton

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Pre or Co-requisites One course in philosophy

Description: Study of the systematic philosophies of Descartes and Locke and their critics. Topics considered include substance, causality, mind and body, space and time, necessity and contingency.

Student Learning Outcome Goals: Goals include basic understanding of main philosophers of early modern period, development of skills in interpreting texts, analyzing and evaluating theories and arguments.

Required Texts:

Philosophical Writings of Descartes, v. 2, trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch

John Locke, *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Nidditch

Anticipated Assignments and Grading Structure (assignments, papers, projects, exams, and other methods of evaluation, with due dates where available):

Two take-home exams and one paper (10 pages). Evaluation based on written assignments, attendance and participation.

Final Exam/Paper: Final paper due Dec. 20,