

Department of Philosophy

01:730:414 History of Metaphysics
Study of the history of specific metaphysical questions. Theme varies.

instructor Martha Bolton

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Pre or Co-requisites Two courses in philosophy 730:103 (or equivalent) or higher

Description:

Theme of the course is personal identity in the early modern period of Western philosophy. We will study the theories of personal identity held by Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, and Hume—their content, motivation, relevance to practical as opposed to theoretical matters, alleged difficulties and possible solutions.

Student Learning Outcome Goals:

Firm understanding of main theories of personal identity in the early modern Western tradition. Develop skills in interpreting texts, critically evaluating theories, and writing well-reasoned papers.

Required Texts:

All assigned readings are either available either on the course Sakai site or electronic sources available through the Alexander Library webpage.

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

There will be a short paper (5-7 pages), a long paper (12-15 pages), and shorter written assignments. Evaluation will be based on the two papers and class participation.

Final Exam/Paper:

Tentative due date for final paper: Dec. 19