

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN PHILOSOPHY (01:730:205:01)
SPRING 2017—RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Instructor: Nathaniel Flores
Email: nathaniel.flores@rutgers.edu

1. Course Location and Meeting Times

This course meets from 5:00pm to 6:20pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Rutgers Business School Building at 100 Rockefeller Road on Livingston Campus.

I will hold office hours from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on Mondays in Room 542 at the philosophy department. The philosophy department is located on the fifth floor of 106 Somerset Street near the New Brunswick train station. Students wishing to attend office hours any given week should submit their names and preferred time through a signup sheet that will be available weekly on Sakai. The purpose of this sign in sheet is to help me know how many people to expect in any given week and to avoid situations when multiple students come to office hours at roughly the same time and need to spend time waiting to talk to me.

2. Course Description

The aim of this course is to provide a broad survey of many of the important thinkers and ideas of the modern era of philosophy (1600-1800). Topics covered by this course will include issues in epistemology, ethics, metaphysics, and political philosophy.

3. Course Material

This course has two required texts. The first is *Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy 3rd Edition* by Garrett Thomson. The second is *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources 2nd Edition* edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins. Both of these should be available for purchase at the Rutgers Bookstore.

4. Grading Scale

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
85-100	80-84	70-79	65-69	55-64	50-54	0-49

5. Grading Scheme

The grading scheme for this course is meant to provide students with multiple ways to succeed. By default, the final grade for the grade will depend on participation in class (10 points), a midterm examination (20 points) and a final exam (70 points). However, each week on Monday an optional reading response question will also be posted to the class. Reading response questions will be due on Fridays at 5pm and will be graded on a check minus, check, check plus system. Grades that students earn on these optional assignments will be added on to their final exam score. Every check minus earned will add 1 point to their final grade, every check will add 3 points, and every check plus will add 5 points. We will talk more about the exams and the grading of optional reading responses in class.

6. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. I reserve the right to lower the participation grade of students who miss multiple classes without providing prior notice.

7. Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

8. Academic Honesty

Students caught cheating in any way on exams or students caught plagiarizing reading responses will be subject to consequences depending on the severity of the offense. In the worst case, students violating this policy may receive an F for the course and the case may be reported to the Rutgers Office of Student Conduct. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the current Rutgers policy on academic integrity located at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

9. Topics for the Course

Readings for the course will be taken from modern philosophers Descartes, Cavendish, Spinoza, Leibniz, Bacon, Newton, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, and perhaps others. A week by week reading schedule will be provided at the beginning of the course. There is no reading expectation for the first day of class.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.