

**Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities**  
Winter 2005

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**Required texts:**

*All texts are available at the Seminary Coop.*

Ariew and Watkins (eds.), *Modern Philosophy, An Anthology of Primary Sources* (Hackett).

Montaigne, *Complete Works*, trans. Frame.

Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

**Class schedule**

*This schedule can be revised and should be used as a guide only.*

January 4                      First day of class, no readings

**Unit One**

*Knowledge and the new science*

January 6, 11                Descartes, *Meditations* One and Two (Ariew and Watkins)

January 13                    Spinoza on Descartes (Ariew and Watkins)

January 18                    Bacon, *New Organon* 1 (Ariew and Watkins)

January 20                    Galileo, "The Assayer" (Ariew and Watkins)

January 25                    Montaigne, "Of Experience" (*Complete Works*)

January 27                    Review

**Unit Two**

*Skepticism and morality*

February 1                    Descartes, *Meditations* Three, summary of 4-6

February 3, 8                Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (Ariew & Watkins, 558-72)

February 10                 Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*  
Ariew & Watkins: read Section VII (514-522)

February 15                 Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*  
Ariew & Watkins: Section X (534-543)

February 17                 Bacon, "Of Truth," "Of Atheism" (photocopy selections)

### **Unit Three**

#### *The social contract and moral knowledge*

February 22, 24	Montaigne, "On Custom", "On Cannibals" ( <i>Complete Works</i> )
March 1	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> (selections by photocopy)
March 3,8	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i>
March 8	<b>Final papers due</b>
March 10	Reading period, no class
March	Peter Greenaway, <i>Prospero's Books</i>

#### **Course requirements**

- 20% Participation
- 30% Three very short essays (1-2 pages, 1000 words maximum)
- 50% Two term papers (3-4 pages, 2000 words maximum)

Due dates for the term papers are found on the schedule above, subject to revision.

Due dates for the short essays will be announced in class and on Chalk.

The participation grade includes attendance and participation in class activities.

#### **Policies**

Late papers will cause you to lose one "step" of a letter grade per day (weekends count as two days). For instance, if a student would have received an A-, but turns her paper in one day late, she will receive a B+ instead. You can email me papers *as an RTF attachment only*. Class participation includes attendance. Please notify me of the reason as soon as possible if you must miss a class. If you miss three classes without a good reason, your grade will go down a full letter.

#### **University Plagiarism Policy**

We believe it is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously and punishments for them may range up to permanent expulsion from the University. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas is expected, whether that use is by direct quotation or by paraphrase, however loose. In particular, if any written source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.

#### **Chalk**

You will be able to access the Chalk website at the URL <http://chalk.uchicago.edu>. The syllabus, outlines of course notes, presentation guide, and essay assignments will all be on the website.