

Humanities 116: Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities

Section no. 3. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50pm, Cobb 304.

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Course Requirements

Classroom participation, including attendance at and participation in writing seminars. Three 4–6 page papers, due Mon., Jan. 27, Wed., Feb. 26, and Wed., Mar. 19.

Texts

Cervantes, *Adventures of Don Quixote*, tr. J.M. Cohen (Penguin Classics). (Note: there is a more recent Penguin Classics edition with a different translator, but I prefer this one.)

Descartes, *Selected Philosophical Writings*, tr. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff and Dugald Murdoch (Cambridge).

Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, ed. R.H. Popkin, 2d ed. (Hackett).

Leibniz, *Philosophical Essays*, ed. R. Ariew and D. Garber (Hackett).

All texts should be available at the University of Chicago Bookstore (a.k.a. Barnes and Noble). Readings not on the above list will be made available as photocopies.

(As was the case last quarter, you can use a different translation/edition at your own risk. We're reading Hume in the original, of course.)

Readings

Mon., Jan. 6: (no reading, first class).

Wed., Jan. 8: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, Prologue and ch. 1–5, 7–10, and 15–18.

Mon., Jan. 13: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 1, ch. 20–22, 45–50 and 52.

- Wed., Jan. 15: Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1 and 2 (pp. 20–31); *First Meditation* (pp. 76–9).
- Mon., Jan. 20: selections from Aristotle (on substance and accident).
- Wed., Jan. 22: selections from Plotinus, Porphyry, and John Philoponus (on substance and accident).
- Mon., Jan. 27: selections from Avicenna and Thomas Aquinas (on substance and accident) (and **first paper due**).
- Wed., Jan. 29: Descartes, *Second Meditation* (pp. 80–86).
- Mon., Feb. 3: Leibniz, “Monadology” (pp. 213–25), and selections from Thomas Aquinas (on angels) (recommended).
- Wed., Feb. 5: continued discussion of the “Monadology.”
- Mon., Feb. 10: **no class** (break).
- Wed., Feb. 12: Leibniz, “A New System of Nature,” first three paragraphs (pp. 138–9); “A Specimen of Dynamics,” first two paragraphs (pp. 118–19); from letters to Clarke: 2.12 (p. 324), 3.17 (p. 327), 4.42 (p. 331), 5.107–11 (pp. 343–4), along with Clarke’s replies to each (in handout); “Discourse on Metaphysics,” (pp. 35–68), §§8–16, 19–20, 24, 26–8.
- Mon., Feb. 17: selections from Locke and Hume, TBA.
- Wed., Feb. 19: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, Prologue, ch. 2–3, 7–10, 22–3, 26, 30–35.
- Mon., Feb. 24: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pt. 2, ch. 41, 54, 57–9, 64–5, 71–2, 74.
- Wed., Feb. 26: Descartes, *Third Meditation* (pp. 86–98); Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, “Pamphillus to Hermippus” and part 1 (pp. 1–12) (and **second paper due**).
- Mon., Mar. 3: Descartes, *Fourth* and *Sixth Meditations* (pp. 98–105, 110–122).

Wed., Mar. 5: Descartes, *Fifth Meditation* (pp. 105–110); brief selections from other authors (required: St. Anselm, Leibniz, Kant; recommended: St. Thomas, Spinoza, Hegel) (on the Ontological Proof).

Mon., Mar. 10: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 2–8 (pp. 13–53).

Wed., Mar. 12: Hume, *Dialogues*, parts 9–12 (pp. 54–89).

(Note: **third paper** due Wed., Mar. 19.)

Timeline

Timeline of various stuff more or less relevant to this course:

347 B.C. Death of Plato	•	399 B.C. Death of Socrates
	•	322 B.C. Death of Aristotle
197 B.C. <i>Roman conquest of Greece</i>	–	
1 <i>Birth of Jesus (approx.)</i>	–	
305 Death of Porphyry (approx.)	•	270 Death of Plotinus
410 <i>Sack of Rome by the Visigoths</i>	•	312 <i>Conversion of Constantine to Christianity</i>
529 <i>Emp. Justinian closes phil. schools of Athens</i>	–	6th c. John Philoponus
622 <i>Muhammad flees from Mecca to Medina</i>	–	
711 <i>Muslim conquest of Spain</i>	–	
8th–9th c. <i>Aristotle translated into Arabic</i>	–	
11th–13th c. <i>Aristotle translated into Latin</i>	•	1037 Death of Avicenna
1204–1261 <i>Latin (Crusader) rule in Constantinople</i>	•	1109 Death of St. Anselm of Canterbury
1347–1351 <i>The Black Death</i>	•	1274 Death of St. Thomas Aquinas
1453 <i>Fall of Constantinople to Turks</i>	–	1492 <i>End of Christian Reconquest of Spain</i>
1517 <i>Martin Luther posts “95 Theses”</i>	–	
1632 <i>Publ. of Galileo’s Two World Systems</i>	•	1604 Publ. of <i>Don Quixote</i> , part 1
1687 <i>Publ. of Newton’s Principia</i>	•	1641 Publ. of <i>Meditations</i>
1781 Publ. of <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (1st ed.)	•	1714 Leibniz composes “Monadology”
	•	1779 Publ. of <i>Dialogues Concerning Nat. Relig.</i>
	•	1789 <i>French Revolution</i>
2003 <i>Now</i>	–	