

## PHILOSOPHY 116: THE MODERN MIND

Grossmont College

Spring 2008

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 – 1:45, Location: Room #573

Section 6859

**INSTRUCTOR:** June Yang, PhD

Office: 511B

Phone: (619) 644-7274

Email: [june.yang@gcccd.edu](mailto:june.yang@gcccd.edu)

Web Site: <http://www.grossmont.edu/juneyang/>

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2 – 3:30, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3 , and by appointment.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

#1: *Classics of Philosophy, Volume II: Modern and Contemporary*. Ed. Louis P. Pojman. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.)

#2: *The Modern Voyage: 1400-1900, The Voyage of Discovery, A Historical Introduction to Philosophy, Second Edition*. William F. Lawhead. (Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2002.)

**BLACKBOARD:** A REQUIREMENT of this course is to check Blackboard regularly. You can find lecture notes, announcements, and you can email one another by using this site. To get to Blackboard, go to <http://gcccd.blackboard.com/>. You will be at a sign-in screen. If you are enrolled in the course already, your username is firstnamelastname (no spaces) and your password is DDMMYY of your birthday. If you have any problems accessing Blackboard, contact the instructor immediately.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“The Modern Mind surveys the significant philosophers and theories beginning with the Renaissance and continuing through the nineteenth century, from Descartes to Kant. This period of ideas coincides with the development of the scientific method and the discovery of the new world. The study presents the growth of modern ideas and the response to the new world. It attends to the problem of how humanity, with its system of values, fits into a world of neutral, indifferent facts.” (*Grossmont College Catalogue 2007-2008* 245).

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will acquire knowledge of the fundamental methodologies of the modern period, gain an appreciation of the most studied and significant works of the era through examining the primary literature, and obtain a general understanding of the many systematic philosophies contrived to respond to the particular problems indigenous to that period.

### COURSE CALENDAR (topics and important dates included):

(Do not be concerned if we fall forward or behind on this schedule. What is important is most students understand the concepts.)

**Week 1:** January 28: Prelude to the Modern Period.

Syllabus, Policies, Introductions. What is the modern period? The notion of method and other very important conceptions. Recommended: pp. 201-210, Lawhead.

January 30: Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679); Hobbesian Metaphysics.

Required: pp. 217-220, Lawhead; pp. 491-497, Pojman.

**Week 2:** February 04: Hobbesian Metaphysics: Determinism.

Required: pp. 220-221, Lawhead; pp. 497-504, Pojman.

February 06: Hobbesian Natural Laws and Political Theory: The State of Nature.

Required: pp. 221-224, Lawhead; pp. 506-513, Pojman.

**Week 3:** February 11: Conclude Hobbes' System.  
Required: pp. 518-528, Pojman.

February 13: Rene Descartes (1596-1650): The Project of First Philosophy.  
Required: pp. 226-232, Lawhead; First and Second Meditations, Descartes.  
Pp. 463-470, Pojman.

**Week 4:** February 18: President's Day Holiday

February 20: The Cogito and the Causal Proof.  
Required: pp. 233-235, Lawhead; Third Meditation, Descartes. Pp. 471-477, Pojman.

**Week 5:** February 25: The Truth Rule.  
Required: pp. 235-236, Lawhead; Fourth Meditation, Descartes. Pp. 477-480, Pojman.

February 27: Substantial Dualism and Bodies.  
Required: pp. 236-240, Lawhead; Fifth and Sixth Meditations. Pp. 480-490, Pojman.

**Week 6:** March 03: Catch-Up Day and Review

March 05: **Midterm #1**

**Week 7:** March 10: Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677): Pantheism.  
Required: pp. 243-249, Lawhead; pp. 533-552, Pojman.

March 12: God as substance and Minds as Modes.  
Required: pp. 249-255, Lawhead; pp. 552-562, Pojman.

**Spring Break: March 17-March 21**

**Week 8:** March 24: Continue God and Minds.

March 26: Emotions and Human Bondage in Spinoza.  
Required: pp. 563-577, Pojman.

**Week 9:** March 31: Human Freedom and Conclude Spinoza.

April 02: Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716): "The Discourse on Metaphysics."  
Required: pp. 257-262, Lawhead; pp. 578-588, Pojman.

**Week 10:** April 07: Continue the "Discourse."  
Required: pp.588-590, 592 (Article 20), 597 (Article 30), 600-602, Pojman.

April 09: The Problem of Evil  
Required: pp. 262-264, Lawhead; 609-613, Pojman.

**Week 11:** April 14: Leibniz' "Monadology."  
Required: pp. 265-269, Lawhead; 602-609, Pojman.

April 16: **Midterm #2.**

**Week 12:** April 21: John Locke (1632-1704): An Enlightenment Thinker.  
The Attack on Innate Ideas.  
Required: pp. 272-278, Lawhead; pp. 614-619, Pojman.

April 23: Locke's Theory of Ideas.  
Required: pp. 279-287, Lawhead; pp. 619-633, Pojman.  
**Essay Topics Distributed.**

**Week 13:** April 28: Locke's Theory of Ideas continued.  
Required: pp. 287-288, Lawhead; pp. 633-643, Pojman.

April 30: Locke’s Political Theory.  
Required: pp. 288-293, Lawhead.

**Week 14:** May 05: David Hume (1711-1776): The Naturalistic Skeptic.  
Required: pp. 310-315, Lawhead; pp. 670-682, Pojman.  
**Draft #1 of Essay Due.**

May 07: Hume’s Famous Attack on Causation.  
Required: pp. 315-317, Lawhead; pp. 682-685, Pojman.

**Week 15:** May 12: Hume’s Skeptical Solution.  
Required: pp. 685-698, Pojman.

May 14: Comparisons of all Philosophers at this juncture. Begin General Introduction to Kant. **Peer Editing in Class, Attendance Mandatory.**

**Week 16:** May 19: Immanuel Kant (1724-1804): The Transcendental Idealist.  
Required: pp. 325-339, Lawhead; pp. 771-777, Pojman.

May 21: Conclude Kant, Review and Summation.

**Finals Week:** The Final will be administered on Monday, June 02, from 11:30 – 1:30 PM.  
The Final Exam will be cumulative. As will become clear, the study of philosophy is cumulative, similar to mathematics or languages. This explains why someone can spend a lifetime examining just one of the above philosophers.  
**Final Draft of Essay along with all accompanying materials due at the Final Exam.**

**STUDENT EVALUATION:**

Grading: 15% Midterm Examination #1	
20% Midterm Examination #2	A: 90-100 %
20% Essay	B: 80-89 %
10% Final Examination	C: 70-79 %
20% Quizzes/Comprehension Exams	D: 60-69 %
15% Classroom Citizenship	F: <59 %

**ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

**No late work is accepted. Students may make up exams only in the case of a documentable emergency.**

**Electronic Devices are not allowed in class. They must be turned off and out of sight. This includes cell phones and all text-messaging devices. You will be asked to leave if you use these in class.**

**Student Responsibility to Drop/Withdraw:** It is the student’s responsibility to officially add, drop, or withdraw from the course. Failure to do so can result in a failing grade.

**Class Attendance:** A student may be disenrolled from the course after three absences; however, it is highly likely a student will be disenrolled from the course after five absences.

**Tardiness/Early Departure:** If a student arrives unreasonably late or leaves early without notifying the instructor before the event, then that student will be considered absent for that class session.

**Professionalism:** It is assumed that students will conduct themselves in a professional manner with a positive attitude. An open mind is one of the most important tools required for success in academia.

**Student Code of Ethics and Conduct:** Students must abide by the Student Code of Conduct published in the *Grossmont College Catalogue 2007-2008*. Students who obstruct the instructor's ability to convey knowledge, or disrupt their fellow students' ability to learn, will be dealt with under the terms delineated in the Grossmont College Student Code of Conduct. Such dealings may include, but are not limited to, verbal and written warnings, written reprimands, disciplinary probations, instructor-initiated suspensions, terminations of financial aid, short or long-term suspensions from campus, and temporary or permanent expulsions. These consequences are serious and can easily be avoided.

Examples of disruptive activities that cannot be tolerated are: repeated cell phone ringing, repeatedly falling asleep in class, excessive talking, passing of notes, entering and leaving class several times during a session, verbal rudeness directed towards the instructor and/or other students, and non-verbal rudeness directed towards the instructor and/or other students.

This instructor is charged with maintaining a positive learning experience for all students in this course, and that responsibility is a serious one. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this course. **To this end, citizenship points will be deducted at the discretion of the instructor.**

Plagiarism will result in the student's being dropped from the course, and the appropriate administrative authorities will be contacted. It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.

#### **TEN TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE:**

1. Be optimistic about your ability to learn from the textbooks, the instructor, and each other.
2. Attend because this is the only way to attain the quality of work required to succeed in this course.
3. Do all assigned reading, even if you do not understand it.
4. If you find you fall behind in your understanding, contact the instructor.
5. Be prepared to spend at least two hours per hour spent in class in order to master this material. If you do not, you probably will not receive a passing grade.
6. Have confidence in your ability to do the work.
7. Use all resources at your disposal.
8. Remember that you are gifted with more education than many persons on this planet. If you try, you are sure to get it, or at least most of it!
9. Remember that we are all here to learn.
10. Remember that you are being trained, or acquiring a skill. Studying, like anything else, is a craft, i.e. an activity. No one is born a good student; we must all transform ourselves into excellent students.

#### **Tutoring Referral:**

Students are referred to enroll in the following supervised tutoring courses if the service indicated will assist them in achieving or reinforcing the learning objectives of this course:

- IDS 198, Supervised Tutoring to receive tutoring in general computer applications in the Tech Mall;
- English 198W, Supervised Tutoring for assistance in the English Writing Center (Room 70-119); and /or
- IDS 198T, Supervised Tutoring to receive one-on-one tutoring in academic subjects in the Tutoring Center (Room 70-229, 644-7387).

To add any of these courses, students may obtain Add Codes at the Information/Registration Desk in the Tech Mall. All Supervised Tutoring courses are non-credit/non-fee. However, when a student registers for a supervised tutoring course, and has no other classes, the student will be charged the usual health fee.

**Announcement:** Students with disabilities who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact Disabled Student Services & Programs (DSP&S) early in the semester so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented as soon as possible. Students may contact DSP&S in person in Room 110 or by phone at (619) 644-7112 or (619) 644-7119 (TTY for Deaf).