

*Syllabus for PHIL 314, Summer 2024, Term 1*

# ***PHILOSOPHY IN THE 17TH CENTURY***

*Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal*

## ***1. Course Description***

This course is a study of 17th Century Philosophy, with a focus on the philosopher widely considered the fountainhead of Modern Philosophy: Descartes. We pursue a close reading of some of Descartes's central writings, and then look at the influence of Descartes on virtually all subsequent 17th Century philosophers, including Pascal, Spinoza, Leibniz, Newton, Locke, and Bayle.

***2. Lectures*** Mon & Wednes: 1pm - 4pm, in BUCH A 203

***3. Instructor*** Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca)

***4. Instructor Office Hours*** TBA

***5. Instructor Email Policy*** Instructor will read and reply to emails weekdays.

***6. Teaching Assistant:*** Tyeson Davies Barton (*The TA will be marking exams, and will answer questions about marked work via email.*)

***7. Required Texts:*** Descartes's Meditations and Discourse on Method.  
Available in bookstore and also free online here: [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Autor:René\\_Descartes](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Autor:René_Descartes)

## ***8. Course Requirements***

***In-Class Exam (x3):*** In the in-class exams, you will be asked to provide answers to questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. If you miss the in-class exam you will automatically be assigned 0 points unless you provide the TA with an UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for doing a make- up exam or transferring the weight to the final exam.

*Final Exam:* The final exam will be held during UBC's final examinations period. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

### ***9. Lecture Recordings***

Lectures will be recorded and uploaded for easy student access.

### ***10. Learning Outcomes***

At the end of the course the student will be expected to be familiar with: some main ideas and arguments in Descartes, along with their historical context; some responses to Descartes in 17th Century Philosophy; some principal responses to Descartes beyond the 17th Century down to the present.

### ***11. Marking Parameters***

Your mark in this course will be a function of three main factors:

- 1) your performance on the examinable momenta relative to your peers,
- 2) your comprehension of the course material,
- 3) demonstration of skill in assessing and evaluating philosophical ideas.

### ***12. Marking Scale***

**A+** 90-100% / **A** 85-89% / **A-** 80-84%

**B+** 76-79% / **B** 72-75% / **B-** 68-71%

**C+** 64-67% / **C** 60-63% / **C-** 55-59%

**D** 50-54% / **F** 0-49%

The degree of difficulty on the examinable momenta will be set so as to *aim* at a class average outcome that by and large conforms to the department average for this course down the years. Upwards scaling may be used to this effect.

### ***13. Policy on Review of Marked Work***

Marks on exams and papers will be posted on canvas. Feedback on expected outcomes of exams and papers will be provided (typically by the Instructor) in so-called Feedback Sessions. Any concerns about the marking of a paper or exam should be submitted to the marker (typically the TA) via email, and will be responded to (typically by the TA) via email.

### ***14. Plagiarism (from the UBC Academic Calendar)***

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

### ***15. UBC Values and Policies (from the UBC Academic Calendar)***

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students

with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>).

***16. Schedule (more detailed schedule will be published on canvas)***

13/5 (Mon) Descartes

15/5 (Wed) Descartes

20/5 (Mon) Victoria Day

22/5 (Wed) Descartes and Galileo

27/5 (Mon) Descartes

29/5 (Wed) Descartes

3/6 (Mon) Descartes and Hobbes (Midterm1 at 1-2pm)

5/6 (Wed) Descartes and Pascal

10/6 (Mon) Descartes and Spinoza (Midterm2 at 1-2pm)

12/6 (Wed) Descartes and Newton

17/6 (Mon) Descartes and Locke (Midterm3 at 1-2pm)

19/6 (Wed) Descartes and Leibniz

*Final exam: at some point between June 24 and 28*