



**FLORIDA  
ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY**

## COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

**Department** Philosophy  
**College** Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 2/26/24  
 UFS Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCNS Submittal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banner Posted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Catalog \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Course Prefix and Number** PHH 3280

**Current Course Title**  
Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy

*Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.*

**Change title to:**

**Change description to:**

**Change prefix**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Change course number**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Change credits\***

**From:** 4 **To:** 3

**Change grading**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Change WAC/Gordon Rule status\*\***

Add  Remove

**Change General Education Requirements\*\*\***

Add  Remove

\*See Definition of a Credit Hour.  
 \*\*WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.  
 \*\*\*GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

**Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:**

**Change corequisites to:**

**Change registration controls to:**

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

**Effective Term/Year for Changes:**

**Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:**

**Faculty Contact/Email/Phone** Nicholas Baima, NBaima@fau.edu, 319-504-2404

**Approved by**

Department Chair Nicholas R. Baima  
 College Curriculum Chair [Signature]  
 College Dean [Signature]  
 UUPC Chair Korey Sorge  
 Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff  
 UFS President \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provost \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**  
1/10/2024  
5 FEB 2024  
2/8/24  
2/26/24  
2/26/24  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Email this form and syllabus to [mjenning@fau.edu](mailto:mjenning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

**Medieval and Renaissance  
Philosophy  
PHH 3280**

W-F, 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.  
GS/103  
3 credits

**Fall 2023**

Prof. Marina Banchetti  
Office hours: M-T-Th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
on Zoom by appointment  
Telephone: 561-297-3816  
Email: [banchett@fau.edu](mailto:banchett@fau.edu)

## **Course Description**

A careful and in-depth examination of the philosophers of the medieval period and of the 14th to 16th centuries. The course may include the reading of original texts, secondary sources, or both. Special attention is paid to metaphysics, logic, ethics, and political philosophy.

## **Instructional Method**

This class is designated as “In Person” and students are expected to attend on a regular basis and familiarize themselves with the University’s attendance policy.

Office Hours will be held by appointment on Zoom. Students are expected to log onto Zoom on time for the appointment. The professor will wait no more than 10 minutes if a student is late.

## **Pre-Requisites/ Co-Requisites**

None

## Required Texts/Readings

- W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, second edition, revised (New York: Harcourt Brace).
  - *The Rationalists: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz* (New York: Anchor Books). (Collection of original writings.)
  - *The Empiricists: Locke, Berkeley, Hume* (New York: Anchor Books). (Collection of original writings.)
  - In addition to these books, there will be additional required and recommended readings and/or videos.
- \*\* Note: All required books and other required/recommended readings are posted in the modules on Canvas at no cost to the student.

## Special Course Requirements

All assessments (quizzes and examinations) will be conducted online through Canvas.

On quiz and examination days, students must bring an electronic device to class for the purpose of taking online quizzes and examinations.

Since the screen on mobile phones is usually not large enough to read clearly or type accurately, it is highly recommended that students bring a laptop or another type of electronic device with a screen large enough to read and answer questions.

With the exception of examinations, the use of electronic devices in class is not permitted. The volume on cellular phones must be turned off and students must avoid texting, web surfing, or any other activities on their electronic devices.

## Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. To engage in a careful and in-depth critical examination of major European philosophers of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, through the study both of original writings and of secondary sources, focusing on the Continental Rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz) and the British Empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, Hume) and paying special attention to philosophical methods, presuppositions, and contributions to the theory of knowledge and metaphysics.
2. To examine other figures important to the philosophical discourse of this period (e.g., Vico, Boyle, and Voltaire), to the historical context of the Enlightenment, and to the influence of the Scientific Revolution on early modern philosophy.

3. To provide students with an understanding of the activity of philosophy: How philosophers ask questions, how they think about and attempt to answer them, and how they critique the answers given by others as they provide their own alternative answers.

## **Academic Expectations**

Since this course is taught as a University-level course and not as an extension of high school classes, all students are expected to have successfully made the transition from high school to University . Students are expected to demonstrate the following traits, which are imperative for success in any University course:

- Intellectual and personal maturity
- Serious attitude
- Clear priorities
- Self-discipline
- Commitment
- Work ethic
- Time management skills

Students should keep in mind that they are paying for the opportunity to study and learn from experts. They are not paying for a specific grade. Students must earn the grade that they wish to receive.

One important difference that distinguishes college level classes from high school classes is that, in college, the burden of the educational effort is on the shoulders of the student -- the professor conveys information and answers questions, but it is the student's responsibility to become an "active" learner.

Another difference is the amount of study time that is required for a class. The traditional college norm is that, for every credit hour (i.e., standard 50-minute period) per week spent in the classroom, a student should plan on spending at least two hours per week, outside the classroom, learning the subject matter of the course.

Florida Atlantic University conforms to the above-described expectations. Therefore, students in this course will be expected to complete at least two hours of course work outside of class for every credit hour, that is, at least six (6) hours of studying outside of class (reading, reviewing, working on homework problems, or otherwise studying the material until it is fully mastered).

## Assessments and Evaluation Method

### Quizzes

There will be regular quizzes based on assigned readings and class lectures. The quiz dates and times are listed in the course modules on Canvas. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class on the scheduled dates and students will be given 30 minutes for each quiz.

There will be 10 quizzes and the average of the quizzes will be worth 1/4 (25%) of the class grade, and student will receive a '0' for each quiz that is missed.

### Exams

There will be an exam after each major segment that is covered, for a total of two (2) semester exams. These exams may be a combination of multiple choice/true-false, short answer, and/or essays questions. Each exam is worth 1/4 (25%) of the class grade.

The highest exam grade will be doubled and this will count for 1/4 (25%) of the course grade.

Study guides for each of the exams (including the final exam) are posted on Canvas. The study guides list the concepts and ideas for which students will be responsible on the exams.

The date for Exam #2 is **Wednesday, December 13, 1:15-3:45 p.m. and will be taken on Canvas in class.**

## Grading Policy

- Quiz Average: 25%
- Exam #1: 25%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Highest Exam Grade: 25% (In lieu of a cumulative Final Exam)

## Grading Scale

- 100-90: A
- 89-88: B+
- 87-80: B
- 79-78: C+
- 77-70: C
- 69-68: D+
- 67-60: D
- Below 60: F

## **Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes**

The dates and times for all quizzes examinations are posted online.

Students will receive a '0' for each exam that is missed. The only exception to this policy is in case of illness or other University-approved excuse. In that case, the student should notify the professor as soon as possible that he/she will not be able to take the exam at the scheduled time so that a time can be set up to make up the exam.

There is no extra-credit work permitted in this course.

As a general rule, incompletes will not be given in this course. The only exception is in case a student is not able to take the last exam due to an illness or other University-approved excuse. In that case, the student must notify the professor as soon as possible so that the appropriate paperwork can be completed and a deadline established for the completion of the work.

As per University policy, all incomplete grades will automatically change to 'F' if the completed work is not done by the deadline established.

## **Classroom Etiquette Policy**

1. All in-person and email interactions with the professor and other students must always remain collegial, courteous, substantive, and professional.
2. Students must be respectful of the professor and of other students and must refrain from making inappropriate comments in discussions and personal interactions with the professor and other students.
3. Comments and questions must be substantive and must contribute and the quality of discussions.
4. With the exception of examinations, the use of laptop or other electronic devices is not permitted during class.
5. Students must keep the volume on their cellular phone turned off and must avoid texting or other activities that distract from the learning experience.
6. Any disruptive behavior or violation of the University's code of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information on the Student Code of Conduct, see [FAU Office of Student Conduct](#).

## Important Dates

- **August 20**: Classes begin
- **August 25**: Last day to register/drop/add or withdraw with full refund
- **October 27**: Last day to drop or withdraw without receiving F
- **December 2**: Last day of classes
- **December 4-6**: Reading Days
- **December 7-13**: Final Examination Week

Officially dropping a course is the student's responsibility. If, for whatever reason, a student stops attending class, completing the assignments, or taking the tests, that student should make sure he/she officially drops this course. Otherwise, he/she will receive an 'F' in the course. No exceptions will be made to this.

## Holidays and Breaks

- **September 4**: Labor Day (University Closed)
- **November 10**: Veteran's Day (University Closed)
- **November 22-26**: Thanksgiving (University Closed)

## Attendance Policy

*Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.*

## Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

*Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>*

## **Disability Policy**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/).*

## **Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is unacceptable in the University community. Academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they must acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all discussion board posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. If in doubt, cite your source.*

## **Code of Academic Integrity**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).*



## Course Outline

**\*\* This Course Outline is a general description of what will be covered in the course and of the examination dates.**

The specific reading and/or video assignments, as well as the due dates and links to quizzes and exams, are posted in the course modules on Canvas.

**Intellectual and Historical Context of Early Modern Philosophy – August 23 – August 30, 2023**

### **Continental Rationalism**

**René Descartes (1596-1650) – September 1 – September 20, 2023**

**Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) – September 22 – October 4, 2023**

**Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716) – October 6 – October 13, 2023**

**Exam #1: Friday, October 18, 2023 – Available on Canvas (In Class)**

### **British Empiricism**

**John Locke (1632-1704) – October 20 – November 8, 2023**

**George Berkeley (1685-1753) – November 15 – November 29, 2023**

**David Hume (1711-1776) – November 29 – December 5, 2023**

**Exam #2: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 1:15-3:45 p.m. – Available on Canvas (In Class)**

## Support Services & Online Resources

- [Center for Online and Continuing Education and Student Success](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#)
- [FAU Libraries](#)
- [Freshmen Academic Advising Services](#)
- [Math Learning Center](#)
- [Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)
- [Office of International Programs and Study Abroad](#)
- [Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services](#)

## Minimum Technology & Computer Requirements

### HARDWARE & SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

#### Hardware

- Dependable computer
- Computer speakers
- Webcam

#### Software

- [Microsoft 365 Suite](#)
- Reliable web browser (recommended [Chrome](#) or [Firefox](#))
- Canvas mobile app: Download instructions for [iOS device](#) or [Android device](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#)

#### Internet Connection

- Recommended: Broadband Internet connection with a speed of 4 Mbps or higher.
- To function properly, Canvas requires a high-speed Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, T1, etc.). The minimum Internet connection speed to access Canvas is a consistent 1.5 Mbps (megabits per second) or higher.
- [Check your Internet speed here.](#)

## Other Technologies

- You can now get access to the FAU licensed and managed software from any location at any time utilizing Citrix technology. FAU's virtual apps and software resources can be found at: <http://www.fau.edu/apps/>
- FAU provides Microsoft Office to every student, faculty and staff member, free of charge. To get Office 365 (the latest version of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Publisher and more), please go to: <https://www.fau.edu/oit/getoffice365/>
- FAU Internal Software Application Store: <https://softlic.fau.edu/>
- For virtual apps and software <http://www.fau.edu/apps/>

The FAU Office of Information Technology (OIT) provides the following services:

- Accounts & Access
- Audiovisual Media Services
- Desktop & Software
- Instructional Technologies
- Email & Calendars
- Network & Wireless
- Phone & Billing
- Security

For further information please go to the FAU Office of Information Technology <http://www.fau.edu/oit/index.php>

## COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Basic Computer Specifications for Canvas

- Operating system: Windows 10 or macOS Sierra (or higher).
- [Specifications](#)

## Peripherals

- A backup option should be available to minimize the loss of work. This can be an external hard drive, a USB drive, cloud storage, or your folder on the FAU servers.

## Software

- Once logged in to Canvas make sure your Internet browser is compatible.
- Other software may be required for specific learning modules. If so, the necessary links to download and install will be provided within the applicable module.

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

The general and course-specific technical skills you must have to succeed in the course include but are not limited to:

- Accessing Internet.
- Using Canvas (including taking tests, attaching documents, etc.).
- Using email with attachments.
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats such as Microsoft Office Tools.
- Copying and pasting functions.
- Downloading and installing software.
- Using presentation, graphics, and other programs.
- Posting and commenting in an online discussion.
- Searching the FAU library and websites.

## Technical support

In the online environment, technical issues are always possible (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait until the last minute before due dates, the chances of these glitches affecting your success are greatly increased. Please plan appropriately. If a problem occurs, it is essential you take immediate action to document the issue so your instructor can verify and take appropriate action to resolve the problem. Most issues in Canvas can be resolved by clicking on the “Help” tab located on the menu bar. When a problem occurs, click “Help” to:

- Report a Problem
- Live Chat with Canvas Support
- Search Canvas Guides

## ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1. Complete a [Help Desk ticket](#). Make sure you complete the form entirely and give a full description of your problem so the Help Desk staff will have the pertinent information in order to assist you properly. This includes:
  - a. Select “Canvas (Student)” for the Ticket Type.
  - b. Input the Course ID.
  - c. In the Summary/Additional Details section, include your operating system, Internet browser, and Internet service provider (ISP).
  - d. Attach the Print Screen file, if available.
2. Send a message within Canvas to the instructor to notify him/her of the problem. Include all pertinent information of the incident (2b-d above).
3. If you do not have access to Canvas, send an email to your instructor with all pertinent information of the incident (2b-d above).

4. If you do not have access to a computer, call your instructor with all pertinent information of the incident. If he/she is not available, make sure you leave a detailed message.
5. If you do not hear back from the Help Desk or your instructor within a timely manner (48 hours), it is your responsibility to follow up with the appropriate person until you obtain a resolution.