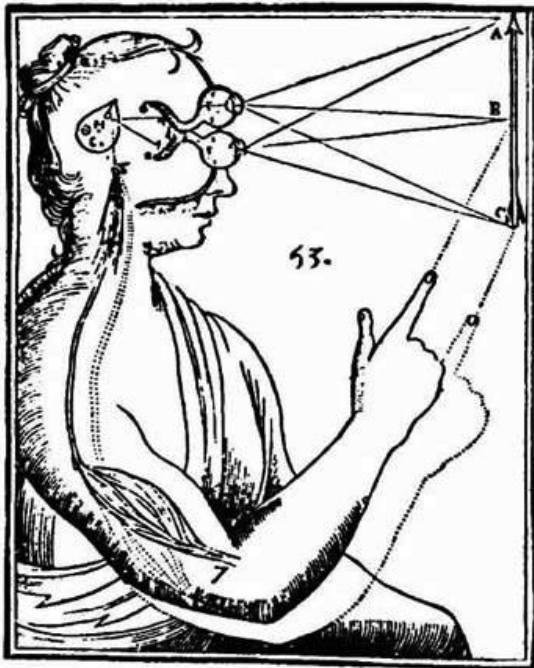


# Early Modern Philosophy (PHH 3420)

W-F, 12:00-1:50 p.m.  
GS/101



*The Representational Theory of Perception*

**Instructor:** Dr. Marina P. Banchetti

**Office:** SO 280

**Contact Information:** 297-3816 or [banchett@fau.edu](mailto:banchett@fau.edu)

**Office Hours:** W-F, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

## **Textbooks Required:**

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.)

Additional readings are posted on Canvas.

## **Course Credit Hours, Pre-Requisites, Co-Requisites, and Role in Curriculum:**

This 4-credit course fulfills a core history of philosophy requirement for the philosophy major and can be used to fulfill the history of philosophy requirement for the minor. There are no pre-requisites. However, since this is an advanced philosophy course, some background in philosophy and some knowledge of philosophical vocabulary are highly recommended.

## **Catalog Description:**

An in-depth study of major European philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries, with emphasis on the Rationalists (and the Empiricists. The course focuses on contributions to metaphysics and epistemology.

### **Course Objectives:**

The course engages 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. The course focuses on the Continental Rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz) and the British Empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, Hume). Special attention is paid to philosophical methods, presuppositions, and contributions to the theory of knowledge, logic, foundations of mathematics, metaphysics, ethics, and social and political philosophy. Attention is also paid to 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.

The course will also 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:**

**IMPORTANT:** As a professor, I have high academic expectations from students. My courses are conducted as University-level courses, not as extensions of high school classes.

All students in my courses are expected to have successfully made the transition from high school to University and are expected to demonstrate:

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

These intellectual and personal traits are imperative for success in this course. 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 one credit hour, that is, at least eight (8) hours of studying outside of class (reading, reviewing, or otherwise studying the material until it is fully mastered).

Students are expected to come to class prepared, that is, they are expected to have read and digested the reading assigned during the previous class period and to have reviewed previous lecture notes. Classes will be conducted with the assumption that students are fully prepared in this manner.

If a student is unable to purchase the textbooks at the beginning of the semester, it is his/her responsibility to find a way to access the assigned readings until he/she is able to purchase the books. No excuses will be accepted for not completing the required reading in a timely manner and as assigned.

Attendance is not taken in this class. However, given the abstract and complex nature of the subject matter, students are strongly advised to maintain perfect attendance, to arrive on time, and not to leave early (see also the "Policy on Classroom Conduct" on p. 5 of this syllabus).

### **Course Mechanics:**

Each class period will consist of lecture and discussion of the assigned readings.

Reading assignments, video viewing assignments, quiz dates, or exam dates will not be announced in class or by e-mail. All of this information is listed in the 'Course Outline', which begins on p. 7 of this syllabus. Students should, therefore consult the syllabus regularly in order to keep up with the work in this course.

### **Course Evaluation Method:**

#### **Quizzes**

There will be regular quizzes based on assigned readings and class lectures. The purpose of these quizzes is to allow students to regularly assess their progress in the course and to identify any areas in which further study is required.

The quiz dates are listed in the 'Course Outline', along with the material covered by each quiz.

Quizzes may be administered either at the beginning or end of class. Students are, therefore, strongly advised not to be absent, not to be late for class, and not to leave class early.

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.

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 exam dates are listed in the 'Course Outline'. Students will receive a '0' for each missed exam.

### **Final Exam**

There will be a cumulative final exam, which will be worth 1/4 (25%) of the class grade. The final exam is entirely multiple choice/true-false. The date of the final exam is **Friday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

### **Grading Policy:**

- Quiz Average: 25%
- Exam #1: 25%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

### **Grading Scale:**

100-92: A  
 91-90: A-  
 89-88: B+  
 87-82: B  
 81-80: B-  
 79-78: C+  
 77-72: C  
 71-70: C-  
 69-68: D+  
 67-62: D  
 61-60: D-  
 Below 60: F

### **Make-up policy:**

The dates for all quizzes and exams are listed on the syllabus, and students will receive a '0' for each missed quiz and/or exam. There will be no make-up work permitted for a missed quiz or exam, unless this is due to a University-approved absence (see "Attendance and University Absence Policy", on p. 7 of this syllabus, for a list of approved University absences).

As per University policy, if a quiz or exam is missed due to another University-approved absence, the student is responsible for notifying the professor prior to the date of the examination and to bring written documentation to justify the absence.

If a quiz or exam is missed due to illness, the student is responsible for bringing written documentation, signed by a medical professional, upon his/her return to University.

In either of these cases, the professor will arrange for the student to make-up the missed exam during the professor's office hours.

### **Extra-Credit Policy:**

There will be absolutely no extra credit work permitted in this course.

### **Policy on Incompletes:**

The following University policy on grades of incomplete will be strictly followed:

Should a student need to request an 'I' (Incomplete) grade for this course, that student must provide (1) a written request stating his/her reasons for requesting an incomplete and (2) written documentation to support his/her reasons for making the request.

Without exception, the student making the request must have completed at least 75% of the course work and must be passing the course with at least a 'C' average.

If a student meets these criteria, I will consult the Chair of the department and, if both the Chair and I approve of the student's request, I will decide upon a deadline for the work to be completed by the student.

In all cases, University policy states that if the work is not completed by the established deadline, the Registrar's Office will automatically change the 'I' to an 'F'.

Once the student has turned in all of the work required to complete the course by the stated deadline, he/she bears full responsibility for following through and confirming that the 'I' has been changed to a grade.

Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this policy.

### **Policy on Classroom Conduct:**

The college or University classroom is a place for the conveyance of knowledge. Ideally, there is productive interaction between the professor and the students that helps facilitate the achievement of this goal. For this reason, a set of customary rules of courtesy applies to classroom situations, particularly at the college level. Both professors and students have rights and responsibilities, both should respect the other, both should do all they can do to help the educational process to achieve its maximum effectiveness and to help the classroom truly become an environment for learning. The policies below are not exhaustive but provide some specific expectations in this class:

- Students should attend class consistently, arrive on time, and not leave early.
- Students should always communicate and interact respectfully with the professor and with all their fellow students.

- Respectful communication applies to e-mail exchanges, which should be courteous and not overly informal in tone.
- Students should avoid monopolizing or interrupting classroom discussion.
- Students should avoid monopolizing the professor's office hours at the detriment of other students.
- Students should make an appointment if they need to speak with the professor outside of the designated office hours.
- Eating and drinking in class is not permitted.
- Videotaping or recording class lectures is not permitted.
- Students are not allowed to use laptops or other electronic devices in class.
- As per University Policy, cellular phones and pagers should be turned off during class (see p. 7 of syllabus for University Policy on communication devices).

### **Policy on Plagiarism:**

"While those who pass on their knowledge to us through their writings deserve our thanks, those who steal the writings of others and present them as their own ideas deserve the greatest reproach [...] and are deserving of strict reprimand and punishment." (Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, *De architectura libri decem*, Book VII, Introduction, Part 3. London: Benjamin Bloom Pub., 1968)

Plagiarism, i.e., the presenting of the words or ideas of another person as one's own, is a serious academic offense, which may result in failure in a course or in suspension from the University. The philosophy department and its faculty will, absolutely and without exception, enforce the University policy regarding plagiarism.

Quotation of another person's words must be indicated in one of the standard ways. This applies to all quoted material, including passages, sentences, and important parts of sentences that are used *verbatim*. Do not paraphrase or virtually quote passages by changing a few words or the word order.

Relating the information in a quote by using different word or expressions, without paraphrasing, also requires citation.

As well, the use of another person's ideas, even without quoting or paraphrasing, requires citation. The source of all quoted matter and the source of all ideas and information that are taken from the work of another person and that are not a matter of general knowledge must be indicated by the proper use of reference notes. Remember this: When in doubt as to whether or not citation is required, it is better to be safe and use reference notes than not to use them.

If not familiar with the proper use of reference notes, either consult with your professor or consult one of the many reference manuals available in the library (such as the MLA manual of style, the Chicago manual of style, or the APA (American Psychological Association) manual of style). Always inquire whether your professor has a particular stylistic preference regarding citations (that is, either MLA, Chicago style, or APA).

Remember this: Reference notes show that an idea or information came from a published source. Quotation marks show that the specific words of another person are being used. Students are expected to be familiar with section 6C5-4.001 of the Florida Administrative Code (printed on p. 72 of the University Catalog), which describes the penalties incurred by students when they engage in academic irregularities such as plagiarism.

**Drop-Dates:**

The students are advised to keep the following dates in mind:

August 25: Last day to register/drop/add or withdraw with full refund.

September 1: Last day to register/drop/add or withdraw without receiving a W.

November 17: Last day to drop or withdraw without receiving F.

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.

**Official Holidays and Breaks:**

September 4: Labor Day.

November 10: Veteran's Day.

November 23-26: Thanksgiving Recess.

**Other Important Dates:**

December 2: Last day of classes.

December 4-6: Reading Days.

December 7-13: Final examination week.

December 18: Grades due in Registrar's office by 9:00 a.m.

**Communication Devices:**

In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cell phones, are to be disabled in class sessions.

**Attendance on the First Day of Class:**

Students are required to attend the first day of class for any course in which they are registered. If a student misses the first day of class for any reason, the student may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

**Attendance and University Absence 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 absence 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." (<http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/catalogRevs/academics.php>)

### **Florida Atlantic University Code of Academic Integrity (Honor Code):**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, 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: [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Honor\\_Code.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf).

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

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/)

### **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/>

## **Course Outline**



## Background

### August 23, 2017 - Early Modern Philosophy and the Scientific Revolution

**Reading:**

- 1. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, pp. vii-117.

### August 25, 2017 - Fundamental Assumptions of Early Modern Philosophy

**Reading:**

- 2. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, pp. 118-153.

### August 30, 2017 - The Representational Theory of Perception

**Reading:**

- 3. Don Ihde, "Epistemology Engines" (Canvas, under 'Files', in "Representational Theory of Perception" folder).
- 4. "What is a Camera Obscura?" (Canvas, under 'Files', in "Representational Theory of Perception" folder).

Quiz #1 - Readings 1, 2, 3 and 4 and lecture notes.

## Part I

### Continental Rationalism

### September 1, 2017 - Continental Rationalism and Its Fundamental Assumptions

**Reading:**

- 5. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, "Descartes", pp. 154-172.
- 6. *The Rationalists* - René Descartes, "Discourse on the Method", pp. 39-96.

September 6, 2017 - Class cancelled due to hurricane

September 8, 2017 - Class cancelled due to hurricane

September 13, 2017 - Class cancelled due to hurricane

Quiz #2 - Cancelled due to hurricane

**September 15, 2017 – Class cancelled due to hurricane**

**September 20, 2017 – René Descartes (1596-1650)**

**Reading:**

- 7. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Descartes”, pp. 172-186.
- 11. *The Rationalists* - René Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy”, Meditation I-III, pp. 100-143.
- 10. Cecilia Wee, “Descartes’s Ontological Proof of God’s Existence”, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2012), pp. 23-40.

**Video 1:** “Bernard Williams on René Descartes, Part I”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44h9QuWcJYk> (Links to an external site.)

**September 22, 2017 – Descartes**

**Reading:**

- 12. *The Rationalists* - René Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy”, Meditations IV-VI, pp. 144-175.

**Video 2:** “Bernard Williams on René Descartes, Part II”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyddgzJF3-M>

**September 27, 2017 – Spinoza**

**Quiz #3** – Readings 10-14, Videos 1 and 2, and lecture notes.

**Reading:**

- 15. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Spinoza”, pp. 192-212.
- 15. *The Rationalists* – Baruch Spinoza, “The Ethics”, Part I, pp. 179-215.

**September 29, 2017 – Spinoza**

**Reading:**

- 17. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Spinoza”, pp. 212-218.
- 18. *The Rationalists* – Baruch Spinoza, “The Ethics”, Part II, pp. 216-261.

**October 4, 2017 – Spinoza**

**Quiz #4** – Readings 11-18, Video 2, and lecture notes.

**Reading:**

- 19. *The Rationalists* – Baruch Spinoza, “The Ethics”, Part III, pp. 262-320.

## October 6, 2017 - Spinoza and the Radical Enlightenment

### Reading:

- 20. *The Rationalists* – Baruch Spinoza, “The Ethics”, Part IV, pp. 321-406.
- 21. Yitzhak Melamed, “Spinoza and His Medieval Predecessors on the *Summum Bonum*” (Canvas, under ‘Files’, in “Baruch Spinoza (Readings)” folder).
- 22. Gary Zabel (Director of the Global Center for Advanced Studies, University of Massachusetts), “Spinoza on the Highest Good” (Canvas, under ‘Files’, in “Baruch Spinoza (Readings)” folder).

## October 11, 2017 – Spinoza

Quiz #5 – Readings 18-21 and lecture notes.

### Reading:

- 23. Jonathan Israel, *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy*, Chapters I and II. (Canvas, under ‘Files’, in “Baruch Spinoza (Readings)” folder).
- 24. Marina P. Banchetti, “The Bill of Rights and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: A Comparison and Contrast”, lecture presented at the 2012 Constitution Day Commemoration Lecture Series (Canvas, under ‘Files’, in “Baruch Spinoza (Readings)” folder).

Video 3: “Jonathan Israel on ‘Radical Enlightenment and the Making of the French Revolution (1750-1800)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbCp7TAVkNQ>

## October 13, 2017– Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)

### Reading:

- 25. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Leibniz”, pp. 219-229.
- 26. *The Rationalists* – G. W. L. Leibniz, “The Monadology”, pp. 455-471.

Video 4: “Anthony Quinton on Spinoza and Leibniz (Part 1)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmbGbo-oyKc>

## October 18, 2017 – Leibniz

Quiz #6 – Readings 22-26, Videos 3 and 4, and lecture notes.

### Reading:

- 27. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Leibniz”, pp. 229-237.
- 28. *The Rationalists* – G. W. L. Leibniz, “Discourse on Metaphysics”, pp. 409-424.

Video 5: “Anthony Quinton on Spinoza and Leibniz (Part 2)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHaHCxsMy28>

## October 20, 2017 – Leibniz

**Reading:**

- 29. *The Rationalists* – G. W. L. Leibniz, “Discourse on Metaphysics”, pp. 424-453.

**Video 6: “Anthony Quinton on Spinoza and Leibniz (Part 3)”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB4FVwy5OI4>

**Exam #1 – October 25, 2017****Part 2****British Empiricism****October 27, 2017 – John Locke (1632-1704)****Reading:**

- 30. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Locke”, pp. 238-248.
- 31. *The Empiricists* – John Locke, “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 7-52.

**November 1, 2017 – Locke**

**Quiz #7** – Readings 27-30 and lecture notes.

**Reading:**

- 32. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Locke”, pp. 249-259.
- 33. *The Empiricists* – John Locke, “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 52-97.

**November 3, 2017 – Locke****Reading:**

- 34. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Locke”, pp. 259-279.
- 35. *The Empiricists* – John Locke, “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 98-133.

**November 8, 2017 – George Berkeley (1685-1753)**

**Quiz #8** – Readings 30-34 and lecture notes.

**Reading:**

- 36. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Berkeley”, pp. 280-289.
- 37. *The Empiricists* – George Berkeley, “A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge”, pp. 135-216.

**November 10 – Veteran’s Day (University Closed)**

**November 15, 2017 – Berkeley**

- 38. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Berkeley”, pp. 289-295.
- 39. *The Empiricists* – George Berkeley, “Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous”, pp. 218-250.

**November 17, 2017 – Berkeley**

- 40. *The Empiricists* – George Berkeley, “Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous”, pp. 250-305.

**November 22, 2017 – David Hume (1711-1776)**

**Quiz #9** – Readings 35-39 and lecture notes.

**Reading:**

- 41. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Hume”, pp. 296-300.
- 42. *The Empiricists* – David Hume, “An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 307-340.

**November 23-24, 2017 – Thanksgiving Recess**

**November 29, 2017 – Hume**

**Readings:**

- 43. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Hume”, pp. 301-337.
- 44. *The Empiricists* – David Hume, “An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 340-370.

**December 1, 2017 – Hume**

**Quiz #10** – Readings 40-43 and lecture notes.

**Readings:**

- 45. W.T. Jones, *Hobbes to Hume*, “Hume”, pp. 337-351.
- 46. *The Empiricists* – David Hume, “An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”, pp. 370-430.

**December 2, 2017 – Official Last Day of Classes**

**Exam #2 - Friday, December 6, 2017 (Reading Day)**

**Final Exam (Cumulative) - Friday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**