Greats: From Plato to the Enlightenment
18/19
Semester 2

An introduction to some of the great texts in the history of philosophy.

Course Organiser:
Professor Pauline Phemister

Course Secretary:
Alison Lazda
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Lecture Times and Location

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 - 10:50</td>
<td>Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre</td>
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Lecture Topics and Readings

After an introductory lecture by Professor Pauline Phemister the course will be divided into four sections, in the following order:

I. Plato
Lecturer: Dr Andrew Mason

Lecture 1: Introduction to Plato and to the Meno
Lecture 2: Virtue and definition
Lecture 3: The Socratic paradox; ‘no one desires bad things’
Lecture 4: The paradox of inquiry and the theory of recollection
Lecture 5: Hypothetical reasoning; virtue and knowledge
Lecture 6: Is virtue teachable? Knowledge and true belief
Lecture 7: Plato’s later works (a): Forms and knowledge
Lecture 8: Plato’s later works (b): virtue and motivation

Reading
Core
- Plato, Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo, translated by G. Grube and revised by J. Cooper, Hackett, 2002. [Of these five, we will study only the Meno and Phaedo.]
- Other translations of the Meno are by A. Beresford, revised L. Brown, in Protagoras and Meno, (Penguin Classics), and by R. Waterfield, in Meno and Other Dialogues, (Oxford Page | World’s Classics).
- Passages from the Phaedo and Republic will be discussed in the last two lectures; these may be found in the collected edition of Plato’s works by J. Cooper (Hackett) and in many other editions.
Secondary
On the Meno:
- D. Scott. Plato’s Meno.
- T. Irwin. Plato’s Ethics Chapter 9 (available online).
On Plato as a whole and his later works:
- A. Mason, Plato (especially chapters 3-5 and 7).
- T. Irwin, Plato’s Ethics, chapters 13-14.

II. Descartes
Lecturer: Dr Anna Ortin Nadal

Lecture 1: Introduction: Descartes, the natural philosopher against the Scholastics
Lecture 2: Meditation 1: The method of doubt
Lecture 3: Meditation 2: The Cogito
Lecture 4: Meditation 3: The Existence of God
Lecture 5: Meditation 4: Truth and Falsity
Lecture 6: Meditation 5: Material Things
Lecture 7: Meditation 6: Substance dualism and interaction
Lecture 8: Objections and Replies

Reading
Core

Secondary Readings
1. G. Hatfield, Descartes and the Meditations, Routledge, 2003, Chaper 1: Descartes’ Project
2. M. Wilson, Descartes, 1978, Chapter 1: General Doubt
3. Wilson, 1978, Chapter 2: Knowledge of Self and Bodies
4. Hatfield, 2003, Chapter 5: Truth, God and the Circle
5. Hatfield, 2003, Chapter 6: Judgment, error and freedom
6. Wilson, 1978, Chapter 5: True and immutable natures
7. The Correspondence between Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia and Rene Descartes, edited and translated by Lisa Shapiro (2007)

Other sources

Advanced readings
- Margaret Wilson (1999), Ideas and Mechanism
- Christia Mercer (2016), ‘Descartes debt to Teresa of Ávila, or why we should work on women in the history of philosophy’, Philosophical Studies, 174 (10)

III. Hume
Lecturer: Dr Anna Ortin Nadal

Lecture 1: Hume’s philosophical project
Lecture 2: Theory of ideas
Lecture 3: Causal necessity
Lecture 4: Induction
Lecture 5: Personal identity
Lecture 6: Liberty and necessity
Lecture 7: Miracles

Core
David Hume, An Enquiry on Human Understanding, chapters 1-5, 7,8
David Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature, Book I: Of the Understanding, Parts 1, 2 (sections 1-3), Part 3 (sections 1-8, 14), Part 4 (sections 5,6).

Secondary readings
- Barry Stroud (1977), Hume, Chapter 1: The study of human nature
- Barry Stroud (1977) Hume, Chapter 2: The theory of ideas
- Helen Beebee (2006), Hume on Causation, chapter 3
- Terence Penelhum (2000), Themes in Hume: the Self, the Will, Religion, Chapter 2: Hume on personal identity

Other sources

Advanced readings
- Galen Strawson (1989), The Secret Connexion. Causation, Realism, and David Hume
- Galen Strawson (2011), The Evident Connexion: Hume on Personal Identity

IV. Kant
Lecturer: Dr Alix Cohen

Lecture 1: Kant’s Copernican revolution
Lecture 2: The possibility of synthetic a priori knowledge
Lecture 3: Space and Time
Lecture 4: Metaphysics and the distinction between phenomena and noumena
Lecture 5: Causation and the second analogy
Lecture 6: The refutation of idealism
Lecture 7: The paralogisms
Lecture 8: The antinomies of pure reason
Kant lectures will be followed by a final revision class covering all four philosophers in the course. This will be the final lecture.

**Primary Reading for lectures**
Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics (Cambridge University Press, 1997). Students may also want to consult the relevant extracts from Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (Cambridge University Press, 1998). Both available online from the library website.


**Secondary reading for lectures**

Lecture notes and other materials will be available on Learn.

Please be aware that the lectures for Greats will *not* be recorded. This is for pedagogical reasons. Concerns about the possibility of wider distribution of recorded lectures may affect the content of the lectures themselves by deterring lecturers from sharing their most recent research with the class (in case of misappropriation or misinterpretation by others unknown) or sharing views of others or their own published work (in case of copyright infringement).

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures and to take copious notes. Attending lectures affords you the opportunity to meet with other students on the
course, in addition to those you meet with in your tutorial groups. Moreover, philosophical ideas and arguments take time to embed in the mind: regular attendance at lectures helps with this process by ensuring that you engage with the course throughout the semester. Taking notes is also of great importance: the physical act of taking notes during a lecture encourages active engagement with the course, and also aids comprehension and retention of material discussed. Your lecture notes will prove invaluable when revising for the final exam. You are advised not to rely solely on any slides that the lecturer may provide in advance.

Further advice on Readings
Encyclopaedias are a very good source of extra reading. Avoid Wikipedia (it is often inaccurate on philosophy) but there are good internet encyclopaedias that can be useful:

- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP)
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP)

Websites
We also recommend the following as starting points for your research:

- PhilPapers
- Philosophy Compass
- The Diversity Reading List

You will need to know how to track down sources, including electronic journals, using the library search engine DiscoverED.

Tutorials
In addition to three course lectures per week, you will have weekly tutorials. These give you a chance to further discuss topics and issues in the course and its lectures. Tutorials will take place, at times and places to be arranged, during weeks 2 through 11 of the semester.

Attendance at tutorials is compulsory for all students on this course. The class tutor will maintain a register of attendance. Unexplained absences will be brought to the attention of your Personal Tutor.

You will be allocated a suitable tutorial group by the Timetabling Department based on your timetable. Should you wish to change the group you have been allocated to, you will need to fill in the Tutorial Group Change form on the Timetabling Department’s webpage.

Please inform your tutor and the Teaching Office of any absences. Students who miss tutorials may be required to do additional written work.

Readings for tutorials

Plato
Week 2. The search for a definition of virtue in the Meno.

Primary reading: Meno 70a-77a, 78c-79d (Plato, Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo, translated by G. Grube and revised by J. Cooper, Hackett, 2002)
Secondary reading: D. Scott, Plato’s Meno, Chapters 2 and 3.

Week 3. The theory of recollection.


Week 4. Plato’s theory of Forms.

Primary reading: Phaedo 65d-68b, 72d-77a (Plato, Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo, translated by G. Grube and revised by J. Cooper, Hackett, 2002)


Descartes

Week 5. Descartes: project and method

Primary reading: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations 1 and 2.

Secondary readings: G. Hatfield, Descartes and the Meditations, Routledge, 2003, Chaper 1: Descartes’ Project
M. Wilson, Descartes, 1978, Chapter 1: General Doubt

Week 6. The existence of God

Primary reading: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations 3 and 5.

Secondary reading: Hatfield, 2003, Chapter 5: Truth, God and the Circle

Week 7. Dualism and interaction

Primary reading: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditation 6.


Hume

Week 8. Hume’s theory of ideas. Causation

Primary reading: Hume, An enquiry concerning human understanding, chapters II-IV


Week 9. Personal identity. Liberty and Necessity
Primary reading: A Treatise on Human Nature, Book 1, Part IV, Sections 5-6


Kant

Week 10. Synthetic a priori judgments

Primary reading: Kant, Prolegomena, 16-22 [4:267-75].

Harder primary reading: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Preface to second edition, 106-113 [Bvii-xliv]

Secondary reading:
Easier:
- Allen Wood, Kant, (Blackwell, 2005): 24-29

Harder:
- Gardner, Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason, (Routledge 1999), 51-63
- H. Allison, Kant’s Transcendental Idealism (Yale University Press 1983), 73-78.

Week 11. Metaphysics

Primary reading:
- Kant, Prolegomena, 40-46 [4:288-94].
- Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Preface to second edition 21-26 [Bxc-Bxxiv]

Secondary readings:
Easier:

Harder:
- Much harder:
- H. Allison, Kant’s Transcendental Idealism (Yale University Press 1983), ch. 3
- Van Cleve (1999): ch. 10
• Guyer (1987): ch. 15
• Langton (1998): ch. 1,2.

**ASSESSMENT**
This course will be examined on the basis of two pieces of assessed work:

**Mid-term coursework essay**
The essay counts for **25%** of the overall assessment mark

**End of semester examination**
The exam counts for **75%** of the overall assessment mark

**Coursework essay**
The coursework essay is a single **1500 word essay** answering a question from an agreed list of questions.

The coursework essay is due **Tuesday 26th February 2019 by 12pm (mid-day)**. You should submit your essay electronically, which means you do not hand in a hard copy of your coursework, just one electronic version. This will be done through the Learn Page for this course and further instructions can be found there. Please contact the Course Secretary if you are having problems uploading your essay.

**Word count**
The word count of your essay, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, must not exceed the specified word limit. The precise word count must be written on the coversheet. Overlong essays will be penalised according to the following rule: 1% of the maximum obtainable mark will be deducted for every 100 words, or part thereof, over the word limit. So, exceeding the word limit by 1-100 words incurs a deduction of 1%; exceeding by 101-200 words incurs a deduction of 2%; and so on.

**Examination**
The examination is a **two-hour examination** given under exam conditions at a date, time and place to be announced later in the term. Detailed information concerning essay titles, readings, submission procedures and the Examination will be available on Learn.

**Resits**
For those failing or missing the exam, a resit examination is held in late August. It is the student’s responsibility to check the resit timetable on the Student Administration website, find the time and location of the resit exam and ensure they are present for that resit. No formal registration is necessary and students will not be individually notified of the resit date and location of resit exams.

**Visiting undergraduates**
The assessment arrangements for visiting undergraduates are the same as for other students.

**Mark Schemes**
For Philosophy-specific marking guidelines go here: [Grade-related marking guidelines for Philosophy](Common Marking Scheme) For the University’s general marking scheme go here: [Common Marking Scheme](Common Marking Scheme)
**LEARNING RESOURCES**

You should regularly check your university email and check for announcements on the course Learn page.

The course Learn page will provide information concerning:

- General information and announcement about the course
- Lecture notes and slides
- Tutorial arrangements
- Information about assessment arrangements

**University of Edinburgh Library**
The library’s hard-copy and online resources can be searched online via DiscoverED.

**Exemplar essays**
Anonymised exemplar essays will be on the Learn pages. These are essays written by past students that they have kindly agreed for us to use. We encourage you to read these essays in conjunction with the Philosophy-specific marking guidelines. In doing so think about the strengths and weaknesses of the essay, why the essays fell into their grade-band, and how they could have been improved.

There are many ways for an essay to fall into a particular grade-band. The Philosophy-specific marking guidelines provide explanation of the many, diverse, ways in which an essay can be a 1st, 2.1, 2.2, and so on. The exemplar essays only show one way to achieve a certain grade; it is not the only way.

**Autonomous Learning Groups**
Each course has dedicated Autonomous Learning Groups. It is up to you, the members of the ALG, to organise the meetings. You decide how often to meet and what to do in your ALG. ALGs are designed to help you learn and get to know your classmates; they are not a formal requirement of the course. It is important to note that assessment in your courses is non-competitive: you aren’t competing against your classmates, only against the general grade criteria. It is in your interests to help each other.

You could use ALG meetings to:

- Read and discuss the papers together
- Discuss essay-writing and time-management techniques
- Constructively critique draft essays or plans
- Work on presentations or discussion posts that the class may involve
- Share tips on career advice

Please email the Course Organiser if you feel that it would be useful for the group if they joined one of your sessions. Please contact the course secretary if you find it necessary during the semester to transfer into a different group.

**Getting in Touch**
If you have a question regarding lecture content you should ask it in your tutorial group and/or visit the relevant lecturer to discuss it during their office hour.

For other specifically academic matters you can contact the Course Organiser.
If you have questions not specifically about lecture content, you should contact the Course Secretary.

**Prizes**
Students who perform with excellence in Greats are eligible for the James Seth Prize.

[v. 17.12.18]