



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 609.49 Lec 1**  
**Topics in the History of Philosophy**  
**Winter Term 2018**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Tuesday 17:30 - 20:15, SS 1253**

**Instructor: Jack MacIntosh**

**Office: SS1249**

**Office Phone: 405-220-3164**

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**Office Hours: 14:00 - 16:00 every Thursday from January 11 to April 12 apart from Reading Week (February 22); or by appointment**

**Course Description**

**The course:** This course will concentrate on the relation between science (natural philosophy) and religion in the early modern period. The centre of interest will be the work of Robert Boyle, but a familiarity with the main views of Descartes and Locke will be assumed. Like Newton, Boyle viewed his scientific interests and his theological interests as forming a unified, practically seamless whole, so an investigation of either straightforwardly involves an investigation of the other. Specific topics to be discussed may include (not necessarily in this order) Boyle on:

1. Religion
2. Psychology and philosophy of mind
3. Epistemology
4. Ethics and animal experimentation
5. Boyle's world view: corpuscularianism and creation
6. Scientific method, including the use of models
7. Laws and causation
8. Explanation, including testimony, demonstration and proof
9. Qualities

Two on-line resources you should be (and perhaps already are) aware of:

- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<https://plato.stanford.edu>). Articles are peer reviewed, and updated regularly.
- Jonathan Bennett's website, <http://earlymoderntexts.com>, which has modernizations of a large number of early modern texts, including three by Boyle, with very helpful notes and interpolated comments by Bennett.

**Prerequisites: N/A**

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Acquiring or improving the ability to read early modern texts and mss critically and competently. As with every philosophy course, this one will attempt to foster the ability to think, discuss, and write critically and with intellectual integrity, looking clearly at the strengths and weaknesses of philosophers' positions and arguments. Additionally, history of philosophy courses such as this require an ability to seek out and understand the relevance of the philosophical and social context in which historical philosophers wrote and thought.

### Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):

- Readings will be assigned week by week. They will include passages from a number of Robert Boyle's works (available on-line through the Library via Past Masters and EEBO), Boyle's correspondence (also available on-line via Past Masters), and selected secondary sources (available either in the Library or on-line). Boyle's MSS remains, partially available on line, and more completely available on microfilm in the University Library, will also be consulted.
  - Familiarity with the work of Descartes and Locke will be assumed, and an awareness of the central views of Newton, Cudworth, Conway, Spinoza, and Leibniz would not be amiss.
  - What bits of Boyle should I start reading? Well, everything, but here is a selection of texts, each of which will be helpful. Browsing in any of them before the course begins would be a good idea. The volume numbers are those of the Hunter and Davis edition (Past Masters on line), or you can go to the first editions via EEBO.
- Usefulness of Natural Philosophy, I and II, sect. 1 (1663), Volume 3
  - Forms and Qualities (1666, 1667), Volume 5
  - Cosmical Qualities (1671), Volume 6
  - Usefulness of Natural Philosophy, II, sect. 2 (1671), Volume 6
  - Excellency of Theology (1674); Excellency and Grounds of the Mechanical Hypothesis, Vol 8
  - Reason and Religion (1675), Volume 8
  - Things above Reason (1681), Volume 9
  - High Veneration to God (1685), Volume 10
  - Notion of Nature (1686), Volume 10
  - Christian Virtuoso (1690), Volume 11
  - Final Causes (1688), Volume 11
  - Christian Virtuoso I, Appendix and II (1744), Volume 12

### Course Assessment

- Marks will be based on two take home tests and class contribution. There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam. The combined grades for the two tests and class contribution (**averaged according to the GPA values of the letter grades**) will make up the final grade in the course.
- Tests: There will be two take home tests, each worth 40% of the final mark. The first take home test is due by 23:59, February 16. The second take home test is due by 23:59, April 13. Electronic submissions are strongly preferred. (If this is impossible let me know and I will arrange for a hard copy submission.) Please make the subject line of your emailed submission 609.49 Your Last Name T# (if Tutorial applicable). If possible, please send your test as an MS Word (preferred) or PDF attachment. The take home test questions will be posted two weeks before the test is due. If you wish, you may submit a rough draft of your answer at least one week before the test is due and I will, usually within 24 hours, reply with suggestions for improvement. Your answer should not be longer than 3,000 words (it's a test, not a term paper). Please ensure that your name is on your test as well as in the accompanying email. No late submissions. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination. There is no particular component of the course for which a passing grade is required for the student to pass the course as a whole.
- The University requires to state whether 'writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work.' It is. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>
- In-class work: This class is meeting with Philosophy 505.15. That class has been told:
  - At this level, and with this class size, every member is expected to contribute each week to the discussion of that week's topic. We will begin each week with a presentation by the instructor on the topic for which notes will have been posted and readings suggested; after the first 2-3 weeks, one or two class members will respond to the presentation and the posted paper, opening the class discussion.

- You will, of course, be expected to take part in those discussions. In addition, this class will meet regularly at a time to be arranged. At those meetings members of the class will open the discussion with a brief presentation. Your in-class work in both settings will make up the remaining 20% of your mark.

The following important information is supplied by the University.

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

### **Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombuds' Office ([ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://ucalgary.ca/ombuds/)) [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>