

PHIL 302: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
Samford University, Spring 2021

Policies and procedures for this class are designed to cooperate with Samford's efforts to counter Covid-19. Your physical health and safety, along with that of your fellow classmates, is a foundational value for the class.

Basic Information:

Instructor: Dr. Taylor Cyr
Instructor's Email: tcyr@samford.edu
Instructor's Office: Chapman Hall 315

Class Meeting Times: TR 3:00pm-4:50pm
Class Meeting Location: Chapman 214
Office Hours*: W 1:00pm-2:30pm

*Office hours will be held under the canopy in front of Reid Chapel, weather permitting. You are welcome to stop by during that time without making an appointment. If weather does not permit, or if you'd like to meet at a different time, we can make an appointment to meet via Zoom or in person at a different date/time.

Required Text:

- Melchert and Morrow, *The Great Conversation, vol. II: Descartes through Derrida and Quine*, 8th edition. ISBN-13: 978-0190670634.

Course Description:

- Survey and examination of salient and influential ideas and representatives of the history of philosophy from the 17th century to the present, including the significance and historical context of philosophical concerns.

Course Requirements (% of Final Grade)

- Reading Quizzes (10%)
- Essay 1 (10%)
- Essay 2 (15%)
- Essay 3 (20%)
- Midterm Exam (15%)
- Final Exam (20%)
- Participation (10%)

Reading Quizzes:

- There will be 12 unannounced reading quizzes throughout the term. These will be short, multiple-choice quizzes that will test basic comprehension of the assigned readings for the day of the quiz. At the end of the course, I will drop students' two lowest scores (i.e., only a student's 10 best reading quizzes will count toward the final grade).
- Make-up quizzes will not be offered.

Essays:

- You will write three essays in a three-paragraph format (see "Essays" handout).
- Essay topics will be announced on the dates listed on the schedule below. Due dates can be found below as well. Essays will be submitted through Canvas before class begins on the days they are due.
- Late essays will not be accepted except in case of unforeseen emergency.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam:

- The midterm exam and final exam will be similar in length and in format. The final exam is not cumulative (it will only test material from the second half of the course).
- The format of both exams will be a combination of true/false, multiple-choice, and essay questions designed to test understanding of the material covered in the assigned readings and class discussions.

Participation:

- You must attend class, be on time, bring your copy of the assigned reading(s), listen attentively, and answer and ask questions. Your final participation grade will include an evaluation of your overall contribution to class discussion.

Grading Scale: 93-100= A; 90-92= A-; 87-89= B+; 83-86= B; 80-82= B-; 77-79= C+; 73-76= C; 70-72= C-; 67-69= D+; 63-66= D; 60-62= D-; 0-59= F

Course Policies**Course Communications:**

Whether we meet in person or online, all relevant and updated information will be available to you on Canvas. Although I may use Samford email for individual communications, communications with the class as a whole will normally be handled using the Canvas Announcement feature. You should make sure that your Canvas settings are such that you receive an email alert whenever I post a Canvas Announcement. You may also email me with the expectation that I will respond to emails within 24 hours.

Health and Attendance:

Important! If you are feeling unwell at all, please do not attend class in person.

- If you are not able to attend a required class meeting because of quarantine, illness, or contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, you should notify me within 24 hours of the class meeting. An excused absence does not relieve you of responsibility for the academic work in the class missed. However, you will not be penalized for such absences and will be given the opportunity to make up missed work.
- If you are unable to attend class in person, you may attend via Zoom, though you are still expected to notify me that you are doing this.
- Regular engagement will greatly benefit your comprehension and learning of the material and will undoubtedly be reflected in scores on all assignment and exams. I encourage you to find peers willing to share notes with you any time you are unable to attend.
- If you have a disability which makes you more vulnerable to COVID-19 (e.g. immune-compromised), you must register with Disability Resources and follow standard procedure.

What to Do If You Must Isolate or Quarantine:

1. If you believe you must isolate or quarantine due to exposure, develop any symptoms listed on the health check, or test positive for COVID, send an email to covid19health@samford.edu immediately and follow the instructions on the reply. Do not attend class in person until you are authorized to do so.
2. If you are unable to attend class in person, you should attend via Zoom and stay on pace with the course while in isolation or quarantine (including readings, reading journals, and any learning activities on Canvas).

3. If your symptoms interfere with your abilities to complete Canvas activities on schedule, consult with me and we will develop a reasonable plan to extend your due dates and get you caught up as soon as possible.

Class Procedure: 100% In Person Instruction (with Zoom Option)

Given the size of our class and the assigned classroom, there are enough seats for us to safely meet altogether in person. Those unable to attend in person should consult with me about attending via Zoom.

Each class meeting will be recorded (via Zoom) and will be available for at least two weeks after the class's occurrence. These recordings may be used to review the material after class.

Whether you are attending in person or via Zoom, it will be important to listen critically and respond respectfully to what you hear. Feel free to explain why you agree or disagree, in a manner that shows respect to the rest of the group.

In the event that our class must transition to exclusively remote delivery, we will continue to meet at the same times but exclusively via Zoom.

- Deadlines, assessments, and assignments may be altered due to such a change, and any updates will be provided in a timely manner via Canvas.

Students' Responsibility Regarding Resources/Technology:

It is the student's responsibility to know how to use Canvas and have access to the Internet and to the course textbook, whether we are meeting on campus or online.

- Because you will participate in this course virtually at various points during the semester, you should have the following technology available: webcam, mic, access to the internet, and capability to use Zoom through Canvas, in addition to viewing online videos, etc.

Electronic Devices:

As stated in the Student Handbook, "Student use of cell phones, messaging devices and other electronic devices (for example, recording devices, music players, PDAs, computers) is prohibited in classes unless specifically permitted by the instructor." In other words, you may not use your phone or computer (or any other electronic device) in class without meeting with me in advance to get permission. I will allow you to use a computer if you have an accommodation or if you otherwise make a case for why you want to use an electronic device in class, but in either case you will need to meet with me in person to discuss.

Additional Samford University Information

Emergency Readiness

RAVE is the primary method of communication used by Samford University during a campus emergency. If you have not registered for *RAVE* alerts, please use the link provided below and go to the My Contact Information box on your Portal homepage to update your *RAVE* Emergency Alert Information. <https://connect.samford.edu/group/mycampus/student>

Samford University utilizes *Samford Alert* for desktop, laptop, tablet, and mobile devices to provide students with information, procedures, and links about what to do in the event of a variety of emergency situations that could occur on our campus. If you do not already have the *Samford Alert* app on your mobile device, laptop, desktop, or tablet, please click on this link

<https://connect.samford.edu/group/mycampus/student> and go to the *In Case of Emergency* box on

your Portal homepage for instructions on downloading the App. Once you have downloaded the App, please take time to review the information provided, it is important that you know what to do in the case of a campus emergency.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should register with Disability Resources (205) 726-4078, disability@samford.edu, DBH 103, www.samford.edu/dr). Students who are registered with Disability Resources are responsible for providing me with a copy of their accommodation letter and scheduling a meeting with me to discuss how their approved accommodations will apply to this course. Accommodations will not be implemented until we have met to review your accommodation letter.

Title IX

Samford University is committed to the creation and maintenance of a safe learning environment for students and the University community. In accordance with federal policy all University employees are required to report information related to discrimination and harassment which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. For this reason, if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with an employee who is not required to report information, you can find a list of confidential resources listed in the online student handbook and the Title IX website or contact the Counseling Center at 205-726-4083 or the Office of Spiritual Life at 205-726-2825.

Student Bereavement Policy

In the event a student experiences the death of a significant member of his or her family or community, the University may excuse absences up to five days for travel and bereavement. The Provost office will notify advisors and instructors of excused absences. It will be the responsibility of the student to follow up with faculty regarding missed exams, quizzes and required work for the class.

Communication Resource Center

The Communication Resource Center (CRC) offers *free* tutoring for Samford students in oral and written communication, as well as support for developing and improving critical reading skills. The CRC will be open *online only* this Spring 2021 semester, with appointments available Monday-Thursday. Students can schedule appointments at samford.mywconline.com. Students will upload files for the tutor to review and meet in real-time sessions For more information, visit: <http://www.samford.edu/departments/communication-resource-center/>
Note: The first time you schedule an appointment, you will need to create an account, use your Samford email and password for the initial login.

Inclement Weather

Inclement weather or other events beyond the control of the University that might cause risk or danger to students, faculty and staff may occasionally result in changes to normal University operations, including cancellation of classes or events; the class schedule and/or calendar may be adjusted.

Counseling Services

Students may benefit from meeting with a counselor at some point to discuss difficult issues, gain

insight for dealing with stress, or to process and understand events from the past. When a need for counseling arises, students should contact Counseling Services & Wellness Programs. On-site appointments are prepaid through student fees and there is no extra cost to the student. To schedule an appointment, please email counseling@samford.edu, call 205-726-2065, or stop by Dwight Beeson Hall (DBH) room 203.

Library Services

Samford University Library (library.samford.edu) is more than just a building; it is a vast array of resources curated to support your success. In addition to print, media, and online resources, the library has collaborative meeting and study spaces, technology that supports your academic endeavors, and professional librarians with the expertise to assist with research needs. Please **Ask Us** (samford.libanswers.com), email us (reference@samford.edu), or call us at 205-726-2196 for more information about how we can help. We are here to assist with your information and research needs.

Academic Integrity

All university values guidelines are respected in this class. Students should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the *Student Guide to Academic Integrity* and the relevant sections of the Student Handbook.

Student Government Association Samford University Honor Pledge

Preamble

Samford University's motto—For God, For Learning, Forever—brings together our commitment to our Christian heritage, the pursuit and transmission of knowledge, and the enduring virtues.

Only a particular kind of person and institution can fulfill such a demanding motto. To do this, the individuals who form the Samford community must embrace honor in all areas of life and scholarship. Thus, an honor pledge is an appropriate way for the Samford community to live out its motto.

Honor Pledge

I believe that the members of the Samford community possess dignity and are worthy of honor. I understand that honoring others fosters academic achievement, personal growth, and spiritual development.

I commit to hold myself and my peers to the standards of conduct and academic integrity maintained by the University.

To this I, _____, pledge my sacred honor.
For God, For Learning, Forever

Course Schedule and Readings¹

Part 1: Introduction

- Week 1
 - 1/26: Introduction to the Course
 - *No Assigned Reading*
 - 1/28: Background (or: A Brief Recap of 2,000+ Years of Philosophy)
 - M&M 340-359

Part 2: Early Modern Philosophy

- Week 2
 - 2/2: Descartes
 - M&M 360-384
 - 2/4: Descartes (continued)
 - M&M 384-403
- Week 3
 - 2/9: Malebranche and Pascal
 - Selections from Malebranche's *Dialogues on Metaphysics and Religion*
 - Selections from Pascal's *Pensées*
 - *Essay 1 Topic Announced*
 - 2/11: Hobbes, Cavendish, and Locke
 - M&M 404-427
- Week 4
 - 2/16: Locke (continued) and Berkeley
 - Selections from Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
 - M&M 427-437
 - 2/18: Berkeley (continued)
 - Selections from Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*
- Week 5
 - 2/23: Hume
 - M&M 438-458
 - *Essay 1 Due*
 - 2/25: Hume (continued) and Reid
 - M&M 458-464
 - Selections from Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*
 - Selections from Reid's *An Inquiry into the Human Mind*
- Week 6
 - 3/2: Spinoza and Leibniz
 - Selections from Spinoza's *Ethics*
 - Selections from Leibniz's *Principles of Nature and Grace*
 - *Essay 2 Topic Announced*
 - 3/4: Kant
 - M&M 465-485
- Week 7
 - 3/9: Kant (continued) and Review

¹ Most readings are included in Melchert and Morrow, *The Great Conversation* (the assigned textbook), abbreviated here as M&M. All other materials will be provided electronically through Canvas. This schedule is subject to change (at the instructor's discretion) with advanced notice.

- M&M 485-495
- Selections from Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
- 3/11: *Midterm*

Part 3: Late Modern Philosophy

- Week 8
 - 3/16: Hegel
 - M&M 496-520
 - 3/18: Kierkegaard
 - M&M 521-537
 - Selections from Kierkegaard's *The Sickness unto Death*
- Week 9
 - 3/23: Marx
 - M&M 537-544
 - *Essay 2 Due*
 - 3/25: Bentham and Mill
 - M&M 545-555
 - Selections from Mill's *Utilitarianism*
- Week 10
 - 3/30: Wollstonecraft and Nietzsche
 - Selections from Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*
 - M&M 555-573
 - *Essay 3 Topic Announced*
 - 4/1: Nietzsche (continued)
 - M&M 573-592

Part 4: Contemporary Philosophy

- Week 11
 - 4/6: The Pragmatists: Peirce and Dewey
 - M&M 593-616
 - 4/8: Wittgenstein
 - M&M 617-650
- Week 12
 - 4/13: Heidegger
 - M&M 651-679
 - *Essay 3 Due*
 - 4/15: De Beauvoir
 - M&M 680-697
- Week 13
 - 4/20: Postmodernism: Derrida, Foucault, and Rorty
 - M&M 698-721
 - 4/22: Physical Realism and the Mind: Quine, Dennett, Searle, Nagel, Jackson, and Chalmers
 - M&M 722-744
- Week 14
 - 4/27: Recent Trends
 - Alvin Plantinga, "Advice to Christian Philosophers"
 - Eleonore Stump, "Orthodoxy and Heresy"
 - 4/29: Course Summary and Review
 - *No New Readings*

- *Final Exam*
 - Thursday, 5/6, 1:00pm-3:00pm