

Philosophy C119/219: Topics in Modern Philosophy
Summer Session C 2001, TR 1:00 – 3:05 PM, Dodd 162

Instructor: Ben Caplan

Office: Dodd 362

Office hours: R 3:30-4:30 PM, or by appointment

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Course webpage: http://ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu/classes/philosc119_sem1_011/

Teaching assistant: Joe Hwang

Required text

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy: With Selections from the Objections and Replies*, 1641, trans. and ed. John Cottingham, 1986, 2nd ed., Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

We will be discussing the text in detail. So you should get a copy of this translation and bring it with you to class.

Additional readings for students enrolled in either C119 or C219 are available in a course reader, to be purchased from the Main Office of the Philosophy Department (in Dodd 321). Additional readings for students enrolled in C219 are available in a course folder, to be found in the Copy Room of the Philosophy Department (in Dodd 335).

Course requirements

For C119:

First assignment:	5-page paper	30%
Second assignment:	5-page paper	30%
Take-home final		40%

For C219:

First assignment:	5-page paper	20%
Second assignment:	8-page paper	40%
Take-home final		40%

or:

Seminar paper		100%
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To pass the course, you must complete both assignments and the final. Participation can help your grade in the following limited way: in borderline cases, it can bump you up at most 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+).

Due dates

The first assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 21 August 2001 (which is the beginning of the third week). The second assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 4 September 2001 (which is the beginning of the fifth week). The take-home final is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, 13 September 2001 (which is the end of the sixth week).

Late policy

Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per 24-hour period; and, since this is a very short summer course, papers will not be accepted if they are more than 48 hours late. For example, a first assignment that is handed in after 1 PM on Tuesday, 21 August 2001 but before 1 PM on Wednesday, 22 August 2001 and that would otherwise have received a B+ will receive a B. And the first assignment will not be accepted after 1 PM on Thursday, 23 August 2001.

The final exam is not a paper; it is an exam. No late finals will be accepted.

To pass the course, you must complete both assignments and the final. No paper will be accepted if it is more than 48 hours late. And no final will be accepted if it is late. So, if you hand in any paper more than 48 hours late, or if you hand in the final late, you will not pass the course.

Exceptions can be made in the case of documented medical, psychological, or other exceptionally dire emergencies.

Academic dishonesty

It is difficult to overstate the importance of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is the sort of offense that can result in (and has resulted in) expulsion. So don't commit acts of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about what counts as academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism), ask. You are responsible for knowing the UCLA regulations.