 Philosophy Faculty Reading List and Course Outline 2017-2018

PART IA PAPER 04:
SET TEXTS

SYLLABUS

- Plato, Meno
- Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy
- J. S. Mill, On Liberty and The Subjection of Women

The set texts are required reading. Material marked with an asterisk* is important

Course Outline

This paper offers an introduction to the study of the history of philosophy. Students are required to develop a detailed knowledge of the texts they study and of relevant aspects of their historical background. At the same time, they will exercise their own judgement on the interpretation of the texts and the arguments and other materials they contain.

Prerequisites

None

Objectives

This paper offers an introduction to the study of the history of philosophy. Students taking this paper will be expected to:

1. Acquire a detailed knowledge of some of the arguments contained in the texts.
2. Acquire an understanding of how different sections of the texts relate to one another.
3. Engage in close criticism with the arguments studied.
4. Develop their own powers of philosophical analysis and argument, through study of the set texts.

Preliminary Reading

Read the set texts before term begins. They are all available in a variety of cheap editions.

PLATO: MENO

Two reliable translations can be found in:


PLATO, Meno and Phaedo, edited by D. Sedley and A. Long (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511780653.

Background Reading


SCOTT, Dominic, Recollection and Experience (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), pp. 3-52. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511597347.


Virtue, Knowledge and Definition

*CHARLES, David, Definition in Greek Philosophy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 1-28 'Introduction'. Also available on Moodle.


Recollection and True Belief vs. Knowledge


DESCARTES, MEDITATIONS ON FIRST PHILOSOPHY

Set Text

DESCARTES, René, Meditations on First Philosophy: With Selections from the Objections and Replies, edited by J. Cottingham (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996). Also available online at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139042895. [This is one recommended translation]

Related Texts


Background Reading


WILSON, Catherine, *Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), ch. 8 'Meditation five'. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511805004.

**Meditation VI**


**JOHN STUART MILL, ON LIBERTY AND THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN**

**Set Texts**


Many editions of both texts are available. One recommended edition which combines both works is:


Other works by Mill of interest and relevance are:


**General Reading**


**Selection of Topics**

(i) The Harm Principle


(ii) Free Speech and Offence

MILL, John Stuart, *On Liberty*, ch. 2 'Of the liberty of thought and discussion'.


(iii) Individuality and Progress

MILL, John Stuart, *On Liberty*, ch. 3 'Of individuality'.


MILL, John Stuart, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 2 'What utilitarianism is'.


(iv) Legal Paternalism


(v) Sex and Gender, Nature and Nurture


(vi) Marriage, Family and Employment


