Philosophy Faculty Reading List and Course Outline 2018-2019

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.

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PLATO: MENO

Two reliable translations can be found in:


Background Reading


SCOTT, Dominic, *Recollection and Experience* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), pp. 3-52. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511597374


Virtue, Knowledge and Definition


Recollection and True Belief vs. Knowledge


**Socratic Psychology


**Related Texts

*DESCARTES, René, Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings, translated by J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff and D. Murdoch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).*


*ARIEW, Roger, John COTTINGHAM, and Tom SORRELL, eds., Descartes' Meditations: Background Source Materials (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998). Also available online at: https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139172844.

Background Reading


*WILSON, Catherine, *Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003). Also available online at: [http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511487309](http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511487309)

*WILSON, Margaret D., *Descartes* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982). Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com)


GARBER, Daniel, *Descartes Embodied* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000). Also available online at: [http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511605994](http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511605994)


SECADA, Jorge, *Cartesian Metaphysics: The Late Scholastic Origins of Modern Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000). Also available online at: [http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511487309](http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511487309)

Reading Relating to Each Meditation

**Meditation I**


HATFIELD, Gary, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations* (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 3 'Withdrawing the mind from the senses'. Also available online at: [http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662](http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662)


WILSON, Catherine, *Descartes’s Meditations: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 1 & 2. Also available online at: [http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511805004](http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511805004)

WILSON, Margaret D., *Descartes* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982), ch. 1 'General doubt'. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com)

**Meditation II**

HATFIELD, Gary, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations* (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 4 'Discovering the nature of mind'. Also available online at: [http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662](http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662)


WILSON, Catherine, *Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 1 & 2. Also available online at: [http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511805004](http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511805004)

WILSON, Margaret D., *Descartes* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982), ch. 2 'Knowledge of self and bodies'. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com)
Meditation III

HATFIELD, Gary, Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 5 'Truth, God, and the circle'. Also available online at: http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662

WILSON, Catherine, Descartes’s Meditations: An Introduction (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 4 & 5. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO978051181805004

Meditation IV

HATFIELD, Gary, Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 6 'Judgment, error, and freedom'. Also available online at: http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662

WILLIAMS, Bernard, Descartes: The Project of Pure Enquiry (London: Penguin, 1978), ch. 6 'Error and the will'. Also available online at: http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=15513

WILSON, Catherine, Descartes’s Meditations: An Introduction (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 6 & 7. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO978051181805004

Meditation V

HATFIELD, Gary, Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 7 'Matter, God, and the circle again'. Also available online at: http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662

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/CBO978051181805004

Meditation VI


HATFIELD, Gary, Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Descartes and the Meditations (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 8 'The natural world and the mind-body relation'. Also available online at: http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=33662

WILSON, Catherine, Descartes’s Meditations: An Introduction (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chs. 9-11. Also available online at: http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO978051181805004

WILSON, Margaret D., Descartes (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982), ch. 6 'Mind, body and things outside us'. Also available online at: www.dawsonera.com


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

*MORALES, Maria H., ed., Mill's the Subjection of Women: Critical Essays (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005). Also available online at: www.dawsonera.com


SKORUPSKI, John, Why Read Mill Today? (London: Routledge, 2006). Also available online at: www.dawsonera.com


**Selection of Topics**

(i) **The Harm Principle**


REEES, John C., *John Stuart Mill's on Liberty: Constructed from Published and Unpublished Sources by G.L. Williams* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985), ch. 5 'The principle of liberty'.

(ii) **Free Speech and Offence**

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


DWORKIN, Ronald, *Taking Rights Seriously* (London: Duckworth, 1977), ch. 10 'Liberty and moralism'. Also available online at: www.dawsonera.com


(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**


Also available online at: www.dawsonera.com

(v) Sex and Gender, Nature and Nurture


(vi) Marriage, Family and Employment


We welcome your suggestions for further readings that will improve and diversify our reading lists, to reflect the best recent research, and important work by members of under-represented groups. Please email your suggestions to phillib@hermes.cam.ac.uk including the relevant part and paper number. For information on how we handle your personal data when you submit a suggestion please see https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/general-data.