Philosophy 168
Descartes
Fall, 2008

Lecture: 290 Hickey Gym, MTWF 11:00-11:50  Office: 2298 Social Science and Humanities
Instructor: Dr. G. J. Mattey  Phone: 752-0609
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Text: *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vols. I and II

Topic: An intensive study of the philosophical and scientific works of Descartes, with the focus on the *Meditations on First Philosophy*. The major topics will be Descartes’s metaphysical, epistemological, and scientific doctrines and arguments.

Schedule

**September 26.** Introductory Remarks
**September 29-30.** *Rules for the Direction of the Native Intellect*
**October 1.** *The World, Treatise on Man*
**October 3-6.** *Discourse on Method*
**October 7.** *Optics*
**October 8.** *Meditations*: Dedicatory Letter, Preface, Synopsis
**October 10-14.** *First Meditation*
**October 15-20.** *Second Meditation*
**October 21-27.** *Third Meditation*
**October 28-November 3.** *Fourth Meditation*
**November 4-10.** *Fifth Meditation*
**November 11.** NO CLASS
**November 12-17.** *Sixth Meditation*
**November 18.** *The Search after the Truth*, Letter to Father Dinet
**November 19-21.** *Principles of Philosophy*: Part I
**November 24-5.** *Principles of Philosophy*: Part II
**November 26.** *Principles of Philosophy*: Part III
**November 28.** NO CLASS
**December 1.** *Principles of Philosophy*: Part IV
**December 2.** *Comments on a Certain Broadsheet*
**December 3-5.** *Passions of the Soul*

**December 8, 3:30-5:30.** FINAL EXAMINATION
**GRADING POLICY**

Grades will be based on the following considerations: Final examination, two five-page papers (30% each). The final will be in-class with short-answer questions. Papers will involve textual analysis on assigned topics. Examinations must be taken, and papers turned in, at the scheduled time, unless prior authorization for another time is given. Unauthorized late papers will be penalized one quantum of a letter grade (e.g., from A- to B+) each two working days after the time due has passed. **The final and all of the three papers must be completed in order for the course to be passed.**

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

During class, cell phones must be turned off and not be used for any communication, including text-messages, checking to see who has called you, etc. If you have special circumstances which require the use of a cell phone during any class or series of classes, you must obtain permission from the instructor.