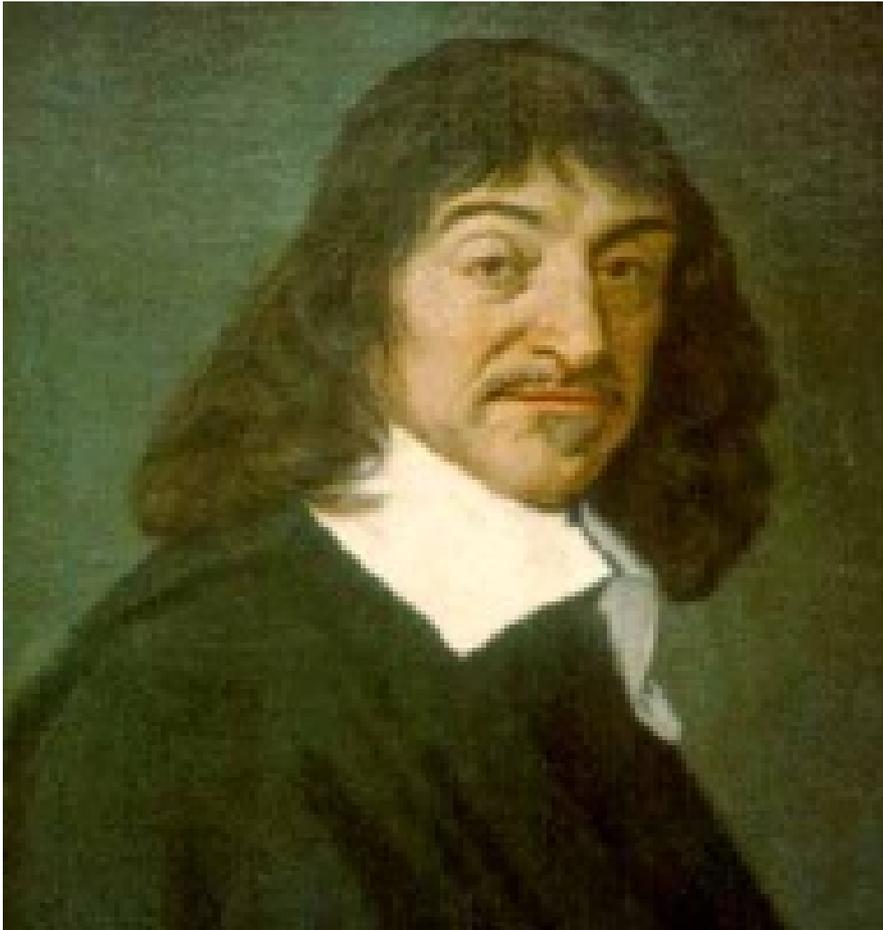




# René Descartes

**Philosophy 22**  
**Winter, 2020**  
**G. J. Matthey**

# Vital Statistics



- Born 1596, La Haye, France
- Died 1650, Stockholm, Sweden
- Single
- One daughter, died at age six
- Primary education at La Flèche
- Held law degree

# Important Events

- 1606. Enters La Flèche
- 1616. Obtains degree in civil and canon law from the University of Poitiers
- 1618. Joins army of Prince Maurice in the Netherlands. Meets Isaac Beeckman
- 1619. Begins mathematical studies. Joins army of Maximilian of Bavaria
- 1620. Begins work on *Rules for the Direction of the Mind*, then abandons it

## Important Events (cont.)

- 1625. Moves to Paris. Begins fellowship with Marin Mersenne. Studies optics
- 1628. Resumes work on *Rules*, only to abandon it for good
- 1630. Moves to the Netherlands. Completes draft of *Optics* and *Meteorology*
- 1633. Writes *The World* but does not publish it upon hearing of Galileo's censure and house imprisonment by the Inquisition

# Important Events (cont.)

- 1637. Publishes *Optics and Meteorology*, along with *Geometry* and *Discourse on Method*
- 1641. Publishes *Meditations on First Philosophy*
- 1644. Publishes *Principles of Philosophy*. Begins correspondence with Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia
- 1647. Approves French translations of *Meditations* and *Principles*

# Important Events (cont.)

- 1648. Publicly attacks his former disciple Regius. Interviewed by Dutch student Frans Burman
- 1649. Moves to Sweden as tutor of Queen Christina
- 1650. Publishes *Passions of the Soul*. Dies, apparently of pneumonia