

Syllabus
Philosophy 170
Fall, 2014

Instructor: Dr. G. J. Matthey
Classroom: 115 Wellman, MW 2:10-4:00 P.M.
Office: 2298 Social Science and Humanities
Phone: (530) 554-4950
E-mail: gjmatthey@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: T 3-5, F 2-3 and by appointment

Texts: *Spinoza: Ethics, Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect, and Selected Letters*,
tr. Samuel Shirley, ed. Seymour Feldman
Leibniz: Philosophical Essays, ed. Ariew and Garber

Topic: We will undertake a comparative study of the philosophies of the “early modern” philosophers Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), who met on one occasion. Both philosophers are key figures in the “rationalist” movement initiated earlier in the century by René Descartes. Focus will be primarily on their metaphysical systems, including the nature and existence of God, the relation of God to the world, the nature of mind and matter and their relationship. We will also have a look of the respective views of the philosophers concerning the human good.

Course Web Site: <http://hume.ucdavis.edu/matthey/phi170/index.html>

Schedule of Readings: A list of readings may be found under “Assignments” on the Web site.

Final Examination: Friday, December 19, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Assignments: Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Read each assignment at least once before it is discussed in class, then read it again after the class discussion. There will be two papers of approximately 3 pages, to be assigned around the third and seventh weeks of the quarter. Each will be valued 30% of the grade. An in-class final examination will account for the other 40%. Papers not turned in on the due date will be penalized one fraction of a grade for each two working days late. All work must be completed in order for the course to be passed. A grade of Incomplete will be assigned only if requested in advance by the student.

Courtesy: Unless phone contact is necessary during class, please turn off your phone to avoid audible notification of calls and texts and to preclude the sending and checking of text messages, both of which are distracting to the instructor.

Revised: December 8, 2014