

PHIL 13195 Honors Philosophy Seminar:        Fall 2020  
Philosophy of Science  
TTh 11:10–12:25  
213 DeBartolo  
www3.nd.edu/~dhoward1/13195f20.html

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Office Hours: TTh 12:45–1:45

### **Texts:**

Richard DeWitt, *Worldviews: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science* (Wiley-Blackwell).  
Plato, *The Republic and Other Works*, trans. B. Jowett (Anchor).  
Galileo, *The Essential Galileo*, trans. Maurice Finocchiaro (Hackett)  
René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, trans. D. A. Cress (Hackett).  
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. E. Steinberg (Hackett).  
Julien Offray de la Mettrie, *Man, a Machine, and Man, a Plant*, trans. Richard Watson and Maya Rybalka (Hackett)  
Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man: The Concise Edition*, ed. Carl Zimmer (Plume/Penguin)

**Requirements:** There will be three components in the computation of your final grade for the course:

- (1) **Discussion Papers** (60 %). Each student will be required to submit three discussion papers, each a minimum of five pages (1,500 words), on topics to be worked out in consultation with the instructor. Each of the three discussion papers will be worth 20 % of the final course grade. Papers will be graded on the basis of both content and mechanics, the latter counting for approximately 20% of the grade on each paper.
- (2) **Journals** (25 %). You will be required to keep a journal to be used primarily to record your critical reactions to the assigned readings. At a minimum, you should write a one-page (minimum 300 words) critical response to each reading assignment, though you are encouraged to write more, taking advantage of this opportunity to record your thoughts on any topic related to the course and the readings. Journal entries will be graded on a random, unannounced basis several times over the course of the semester. In addition, the entire journal will be checked regularly to be sure that all required entries are included. You will submit your journal entries through the Sakai page for this course, creating a “blog” entry for each of the reading assignments. (Be sure to remember to check the option “**Only site administrators and I can see this entry**” and to “publish” your entry.) You will be graded rigorously on the extent to which you use your journal, the minimum of one page (300 words) per reading being strictly enforced. But it will be the quality of thinking manifest in your journal that will chiefly determine your grade.
- (3) **Class Participation** (15 %). The remaining fifteen percent of your final grade will be determined on the basis of the quality and extent of your enthusiastic and constructive participation in class discussion.

**One-minute Papers:** Every class session will end a few minutes early to permit you to write a so-called “one-minute paper,” in which you will write no more than two- or three-sentence answers to two questions: (a) What was the most important point covered in today’s class? (b) What issue or question was left most unclear in your mind at the end of today’s class? These one-minute papers will be required of every student and will be submitted by email as soon as possible after every class session. They are required but will not be graded.

**Attendance:** No more than two unexcused absences will be permitted during the semester; for every additional unexcused absence, the student’s final course grade will be reduced by one step on a plus/minus basis. Thus, for example, for a student with three unexcused absences, a final grade of B+ becomes a B, and for a student with four unexcused absences, a final grade of B becomes a C+. A student more than fifteen minutes late for class is assumed to be absent. If you must miss a class for any reason, be sure to let me know beforehand, or as soon after the fact as possible, so as to enable me to determine whether or not to excuse the absence. I promise to be generous in allowing excused absences for legitimate purposes.

### **Health and Safety Protocols:**

In this class, as elsewhere on campus, students must comply with all University health and safety protocols, including:

- Face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth will be worn by all students and instructors;
- Physical distancing will be maintained in all instructional spaces;
- Students will sit in assigned seats throughout the semester, which will be documented by faculty for purposes of any needed contact tracing; and
- Protocols for staged entry to and exit from classrooms and instructional spaces will be followed.

We are part of a community of learning in which compassionate care for one another is part of our spiritual and social charter. Consequently, compliance with these protocols is an expectation for everyone enrolled in this course. If a student refuses to comply with the University's health and safety protocols, the student must leave the classroom and will earn an unexcused absence for the class period and any associated assignments/assessments for the day. Persistent deviation from expected health and safety guidelines may be considered a violation of the University's "[Standards of Conduct](#)," as articulated in [du Lac: A Guide for Student Life](#), and will be referred accordingly.

### **Health Checks and Attendance:**

Every morning, members of the Notre Dame Community will be asked to complete a daily health check and submit their information via the Return to Campus Advisor application. The health check application will indicate one of the following:

- a) Student is cleared for class and should attend class in person; or
- b) Student is advised to stay home to monitor symptoms and should participate in class virtually and complete all assignments and assessments; or
- c) Student must consult a healthcare provider and should contact University Health Services (UHS) for an assessment. In the meantime, the student should participate in class virtually and complete all assignments and assessments. Depending on the medical assessment, UHS will follow the University's standard protocol for obtaining an excused absence for medical reasons.

### **Dual-Mode:**

Should it be necessary for us to go to dual-mode learning, with some students participating remotely, the Zoom link for this class will be 935 2069 8791.

**Schedule:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
11 Aug.	Introduction to the course.	
13 Aug.	Plato, <i>The Apology</i> .	Jowett edition, pp. 447-470
18 Aug.	Plato, <i>The Phaedo</i> .	Jowett edition, pp. 489-519
20 Aug.	"	Jowett edition, pp. 520-552
25 Aug.	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> .	Books I & II, Jowett edition, pp. 9-70
27 Aug.	"	Books III-V, Jowett edition, pp. 71-173
01 Sep.	"	Books VI & VII, Jowett edition, pp. 174 - 233
03 Sep.	"	Books VIII-X, Jowett edition, pp. 234 - 316
07 Sep.	<b><i>First Discussion Paper Due</i></b>	
08 Sep.	Aristotelian and Ptolemaic Cosmology	DeWitt, Chapters 9-10
10 Sep.	"	DeWitt, Chapters 11-13
15 Sep.	The Copernican, Tychonic, and Keplerian Systems	DeWitt, Chapter 14
17 Sep.	"	DeWitt, Chapters 15-16
22 Sep.	Galileo's Challenge	DeWitt, Chapter 17
24 Sep.	"	DeWitt, Chapters 18-19
29 Sep.	Galileo, "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina"	<i>The Essential Galileo</i> , pp. 109-145
01 Oct.	"	
06 Oct.	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> .	Meditations I & II
08 Oct.	"	Meditations III & IV
13 Oct.	"	Meditations V & VI

15 Oct.	The Newtonian Worldview	DeWitt, Chapters 20 & 22
20 Oct.	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	§§ I-IV
22 Oct.	"	§§ V-VII
26 Oct	<b><i>Second Discussion Paper Due</i></b>	
27 Oct.	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	§§ VIII-X
29 Oct.	"	§§ XI-XII
03 Nov.	de la Mettrie, <i>Man A Machine</i>	de la Mettrie, pp. 27-76
05 Nov.	The Darwinian Worldview	DeWitt, chapters 29-30
10 Nov.	Darwin, <i>The Descent of Man</i>	Chapters 2-4, pp. 20-150
12 Nov.	"	Chapters 5-7, pp. 151-275
18 Nov.	<b><i>Third Discussion Paper Due</i></b>	