

PHIL 490: Topics: Spinoza

Spring 2009

Ablondi

B-2

RaNorth

Texts: Spinoza, *Ethics*

Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*

Office Hours: T & W 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

Objective: the goal of this course is to give students a deep understanding of one of the greatest philosophers in the Western tradition. We will spend most of the semester on Spinoza's masterpiece, the *Ethics*, a work that, despite its title, presents us with Spinoza's metaphysical and psychology as well as his ethical thought. If there is time, we will also look at his religious and political thought, as presented in the *TTP*.

Grading: Your grade will be determined by two exams (25% each), a research paper (8-10 pages, due at the time of the final exam and counting 30% of final grade), and participation (20%).

How attendance figures into your grade:

- You have one "free" absence during the semester.
- Every unexcused absence will cause a penalty to your final grade of **1 grade point**.
- The following absences will be excused: significant illness, college business, extreme and unpredictable emergency. You must notify me before an absence for it to be excused, except in emergencies.
- Travel days immediately before and after official breaks will not be excused.

Schedule of Readings:

Jan.	13	Introduction
	15	E1def1–E1p11: Substance
	27	E1p12–E1p29: Why Space Has No Parts; Universal Determinism
	29	E1p30–E1App: Intellect & Will; The Rejection of Teleology
Feb.	3	E2def–E2p19: The Mental
	5	E2p20–E2p39: Consciousness
	10	E2p40–E2App: Knowledge; Willing
	12	E3Pref–E3p12: Conatus
	17	E3p13–E3p27: Love, Hate, & Association
	19	Catch-Up, Review
	24	Exam #1
	26	E3p28–E3p50: The Mechanics of the Affects

Mar.	3	E3p51–E3App: Nominalism; Definitions of the Affects
	5	E4Pref–E4p20: Passivity
	17	E4p21–E4p37: From the State of Nature to Civil Society
	19	E4p38–E4p58: Good & Evil
	24	Ep58schol–E4App: Active Affects
	26	E5Pref–Ep13: A Technology of Behavior
Apr.	31	E5p14–E5p42: God & Eternity
	2	Visit from Steven Nadler
	7	Catch-Up, Review
	9	Exam
	14	<i>TTP</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
	16	<i>TTP</i> , Chapter 6
	21	<i>TTP</i> , Chapters 14 & 15
	23	<i>TTP</i> , Chapters 16 & 17

Final Paper due: Friday, May 1 @ 5:00

The schedule is an ideal, but I intend to keep the exam dates firm.

For an understanding of the Hendrix Academic Integrity Policy, see pp. 46-51 of the Catalog. The Policy as stated there will govern how instances of academic dishonesty are handled in this course.

It is the policy of Hendrix College to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student who needs accommodation in relation to a recognized disability should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. In order to receive accommodations, students, with disabilities are required to contact Julie Brown in Academic Support Services at 450-1482.