Course Description: A broad historical introduction to the philosophy of the Rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz), Empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, Hume), and Kant.

Course Requirements: This course will be structured around a combination of lectures and class discussions/group work. This means that you should come to class well-prepared (i.e. with a solid understanding of the readings for the day and questions for discussion). You will be expected to make significant contributions in class discussions as well as in web-forum discussions.

Grade Distribution:

Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
First Paper (5-6 pages): 20% (date TBA)
Second Paper (5-6 pages): 20% (date TBA)
Class Discussion: 20%

Class Schedule

1/17   Introduction
1/19   Descartes (I)   Meditation One
1/24   Descartes (II)  Meditation Two
1/26   Descartes (III) Meditation Three
1/31   Descartes (IV)  Meditations Four and Five
2/2    *No Class*
2/7    Descartes (V)   Meditation Six
2/9    Spinoza (I)     Ethics, P1-P5
2/14   Spinoza (II)    Ethics, P6-P15
2/16   Spinoza (III)   Ethics, P16-P30
2/21   Spinoza (IV)    Ethics, 2P1-7
2/23   Leibniz (I)     Discourse on Metaphysics, 1-14; 30
2/28   Leibniz (II)    The Monadology
3/2    Leibniz (III)    Preface to the New Essays
3/7    SPRING BREAK
3/9    SPRING BREAK
3/14  Locke (I)  *The Empiricists*, pp.1-37
3/16  MIDTERM EXAM
3/21  Locke (II)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 37-75
3/23  Locke (III)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 75-97; 104-113
3/28  Berkeley (I)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 151-163
3/30  Berkeley (II)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 163-178; 185-198; 211-215
4/4  Berkeley (III)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 217-252
4/4  Berkeley (IV)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 252-270
4/6  Berkeley (V)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 270-305
4/11  Hume (I)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 316-346
4/13  Hume (II)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 349-364
4/18  Hume (III)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 364-383
4/20  Hume (IV)  *The Empiricists*, pp. 417-430
4/25  Kant (I)  *Prolegomena*, pp. 63-87
4/27  Kant (II)  *Prolegomena*, pp. 88-100
5/2  Kant (III)  *Prolegomena*, pp. 101-131
5/4  Kant (IV)  *Prolegomena*, pp. 132-171