

# European Intellectual History – HTS3032

Spring 2019

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## Course Description

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This course brings before students some of the most consequential writings of Western civilization and their enduring ideas. Through a study of primary sources, the course traces the roots of modern thought in the ancient and medieval world before proceeding to explore modernity as a series of complex dialogues and debates about the nature of knowledge, the individual and society.

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## Course Objectives

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At the end of this course the students will:

- \*demonstrate knowledge of the origins of modernity
- \*be able to provide an account of the most important currents of thought in the modern world and the most consequential debates on knowledge, individual and society
- \*be able to connect the ideas studied with the historical contexts in which they emerged and developed, as well as with the deep past of Western civilization
- \*be able to engage critically with primary sources using the tools of intellectual history
- \*develop their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

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## Materials

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### Required books\*

Forrest Baird, *Philosophic Classics: From Plato to Derrida*, ISBN 978-0-20-578386-1

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ISBN 978-0-19-953569-9

Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*, ISBN 978-0-80-701429-5

\*All other required materials on the course calendar can be found in .pdf format on Canvas; please bring **PRINTED** copies of these materials to class, following the schedule listed below

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## Requirements

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Attendance and participation in class discussion. **NB:** assigned readings should be **prepared before each class; this is essential to meaningful participation in class discussion.** You must bring to class **hardcopies** of the assigned primary source readings (required books or printouts). **More than 4 unexcused absences will result in a 0 grade for participation – 20%**

Quizzes and short writing assignments – **30%**

Three papers (see course schedule) – **30%**

Final exam – **20%**

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**Calendar**

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**COURSE CALENDAR**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
<b>Week 1</b>			
Tuesday	01/08	Introductions. Course overview	
Thursday	01/10	Pre-socratic philosophy: <a href="https://www.utm.edu/staff/jfieser/class/110/1-presocratics.htm">https://www.utm.edu/staff/jfieser/class/110/1-presocratics.htm</a>	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Tuesday	01/15	Plato, Apology and Crito (Baird, 21-37 and 38-46)	
Thursday	01/17	Plato, Republic (Baird, 78-124)	
<b>Week 3</b>			
Tuesday	01/22	Aristotle, Physics (Baird, 129-140), Metaphysics (Baird, 140-142, 151-157), and On The Soul (162-163)	
Thursday	01/24	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics (Baird, 164-187 (Books I and II), 191-202 (Book VI), and 221-226 (Book X))	

<b>Week 4</b>			
Tuesday	01/29	Hellenistic philosophy – Epicurus (Baird, 230-238); Epictetus (Baird, 241-251); Sextus Empiricus (Baird, 253-257)	
Thursday	01/31	Neoplatonism – Plotinus (Baird, 258-266)	
<b>Week 5</b>			
Tuesday	02/05	Christian synthesis (Canvas)	
Thursday	02/07	Augustine of Hippo (Baird, 275-299)	
<b>Week 6</b>			
Tuesday	02/12	Boethius (Baird, 300-305)  Pseudo-Dionysius <a href="https://www3.dbu.edu/mitchell/celestialhierarchy.htm">https://www3.dbu.edu/mitchell/celestialhierarchy.htm</a>	Paper #1 due
Thursday	02/14	Anselm (Baird, 308-313)  Abelard, The Story of My Misfortunes <a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/abelard-histcal.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/abelard-histcal.asp</a>  Abelard, Prologue to Sic et Non	

		<a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/Abelard-SicetNon-Prologue.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/Abelard-SicetNon-Prologue.asp</a>	
<b>Week 7</b>			
Tuesday	02/19	Aquinas (Baird, 331-357)	
Thursday	02/21	Roger Bacon  <a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/bacon1.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/bacon1.asp</a>  <a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/bacon2.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/bacon2.asp</a>  William of Ockham (Baird, 361-365)	
<b>Week 8</b>			
Tuesday	02/26	Machiavelli, The Prince	
Thursday	02/28	Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola (Baird, 366-370)  Marsilio Ficino  <a href="http://www.faculty.umb.edu/gary_zabel/Courses/Phil%20281b/Philosophy%20of%20Magic/08.Ficino.pdf">http://www.faculty.umb.edu/gary_zabel/Courses/Phil%20281b/Philosophy%20of%20Magic/08.Ficino.pdf</a>	
<b>Week 9</b>			
Tuesday	03/05	Galileo Galilei (Canvas)	Paper #2 due

Thursday	03/07	René Descartes (Baird, 377-399 and 417-420)	
<b>Week 10</b>			
Tuesday	03/12	Thomas Hobbes (Baird, 424-425 and 437-460)	
Thursday	03/14	John Locke (Baird, 545-574) and on Canvas	
<b>Week 11</b>			
Tuesday	03/26	Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Baird, 765-774) David Hume (Baird, 690-701 and 759-761)	
Thursday	03/28	Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Baird, 765-774)	
<b>Week 12</b>			
Tuesday	04/02	Mary Wollstonecraft (Baird, 898-904)	
Thursday	04/04	G.W.F. Hegel (Baird, 907-919)	

<b>Week 13</b>			
Tuesday	04/09	John Stuart Mill (Baird, 948-961)	
Thursday	04/11	Karl Marx (Baird, 995-1006)	
<b>Week 14</b>			
Tuesday	04/16	Charles Darwin (Canvas)	
Thursday	04/18	Nietzsche (Baird, 1045-1060)	Paper #3 due
<b>Week 15</b>			
Tuesday	04/23	Viktor Frankl, Man's Search For Meaning	

\* **Printed** copies of the assigned readings **must** be brought to each class.

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### Grading scale

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90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F

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### Academic Integrity

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**Academic integrity:** Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech [Academic Honor Code](#) . **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. The penalty for plagiarism will be a “0” grade for the assignment/test in question and possibly a failing grade for the course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity ([see process here](#)).**

**Support for students with disabilities:** Please discuss your ODS-approved accommodations with me early in the semester so we can plan for any necessary adjustments to course requirements.