

PL 607 : SPINOZA'S *ETHICS*
Spring 2008

DAY / TIME : T 4:30 – 6:15 P.M.
INSTRUCTOR : PROF. J.-L. SOLÈRE
OFFICE : DEP. OF PHILOSOPHY, # 390
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COURSE DESCRIPTION :

We will carry out a continuous and close textual study of Spinoza's masterpiece, the *Ethics*, one of the most ambitious attempts to dissolve the fears and the passions of ignorance. This will also give us the opportunity to confront his system with the other great philosophies of the 17th century, the class being especially designed for providing graduate students with a strong and in-depth presentation of early modern thought.

REQUIRED BOOK :

The Essential Spinoza. Ethics and Related Writings, ed. by M. L. Morgan, with the transl. of Samuel Shirley, Indianapolis, Hackett, 2006 (ISBN 978-0-87220-803-2).

CREDITS REQUIREMENTS

One intermediary & one final paper. Class participation.

ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

A biography of Spinoza:

Nadler, Steven: *Spinoza: a life* (Cambridge University Press, 1999). Call No:
O'Neill Stacks B3997 .N33 1999

Short presentations:

On-line "Spinoza" articles in : *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.*

Introductions:

Garret, Don, ed.: *The Cambridge companion to Spinoza* (Cambridge University Press, 1996). O'Neill Stacks B3998 .B32 1996

Allison, Henry E.: *Benedict de Spinoza : an introduction* (Yale University Press, 1987).
O'Neill Stacks B3998 .A42 1987

Bennett, Jonathan F.: *A study of Spinoza's Ethics* (Hackett Pub. Co., 1984).
New England Deposit Library Stacks B3974 .B46 1984

Curley, Edwin M.: *Behind the geometrical method : a reading of Spinoza's Ethics*
(Princeton University Press, 1988). O'Neill Stacks B3974 .C87 1988

Donagan, Alan: *Spinoza* (University of Chicago Press, 1989).
O'Neill Stacks B3998 .D66 198

All books will be on reserve shelves.

A more complete bibliography is available on the WebCT site.

You will also find on the WebCT site other documents, links, etc.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 15	Introduction
Jan. 22	Part I, definitions, axioms, prop. 1-10
Jan. 29	Part I, prop. 11-20
Feb. 5	Part I, prop. 16-32
Feb. 12	Part I, prop. 33-36, Appendix ; Part II, definitions, axioms, prop. 1-8
Feb. 19	Part II, prop. 9-13, axioms and lemmas, prop. 14-23
Feb. 26	Part II, prop. 24-49
March 11	Part III, preface, definitions, postulates, prop. 1-20
March 18	Part III, prop. 21-49
March 25	Part III, prop. 50-59 ; Part IV, preface, definitions, axiom, prop. 1-18
April 1	Part IV, prop. 19-37
April 8	Part IV, prop. 38-73, Appendix
April 15	Part V, preface, axioms, prop.1-20
April 29	Part V, prop. 21-42