PL 607 – SPINOZA’S ETHICS
Spring 2012

DAY / TIME: W 2:00 – 4:00 P.M., CARNEY 004
INSTRUCTOR: PROF. J.-L. SOLÈRE
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OFFICE HOURS: W 4:00 – 5:30 P.M.
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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:


CREDITS REQUIREMENTS

One intermediary & one final paper. Class participation.
ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

A biography of Spinoza:


Short presentations:


Introductions:


Della Rocca, Michael: Spinoza (Routledge, 2008)


All books will be on reserve shelves.
A more complete bibliography is available on the Blackboard site. You will also find on the Blackboard site other documents, links, etc.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 18    Introduction
Jan. 25    Part I, definitions, axioms, prop. 1-10
Feb. 1     Part I, prop. 11-20
Feb. 8     Part I, prop. 21-25
Feb. 15    Part I, prop. 26-36, Appendix
Feb. 22    Part II, definitions, axioms, prop. 1-13
Feb. 29    Part II, axioms and lemmas, prop. 14-23
March 14   Part II, prop. 24-49
March 21   Part III, preface, definitions, postulates, prop. 1-20
March 28   Part III, prop. 21-49
April 4    Part III, prop. 50-59 ; Part IV, preface, definitions, axiom, prop. 1-18
April 11   Part IV, prop. 19-37
April 18   Part IV, prop. 38-73, Appendix
April 25   Part V, preface, axioms, prop.1-20
May 2      Part V, prop. 21-42