Conceptions of "cause" and "effect", and theories of causation, from antiquity through today. Beginning with Aristotle and the Greek skeptics, we study the contributions of philosophers who have made notable contributions within this area of metaphysics: Suarez, Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, Leibniz, Hume, Kant, and contemporary thinkers such as Davidson and Lewis. 3 pts.

NOTE: This course is intended for Philosophy majors only, preferably Seniors and Juniors.

REQUIRED TEXT (paperback, available at Labyrinth Books, 536 W 112 St):

NOTE. This edition of Hume’s *Enquiry* is essential for the course: the class and the instructor must be “on the same page”. The prescribed readings below include texts on Reserve and additional readings which will be made available, normally as PDF documents, via Courseworks (CW).

READINGS ON RESERVE (Butler):

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
**Paper I.** 6 pages, double-spacing (20%), due February 16.
**Paper II.** 6 pages, double-spacing (20%), due March 23.
**Paper III.** 12 pages, double-spacing (60%), due April 20.
I will set the topics for Papers I and II, and announce them two weeks before the due date. In each paper you’ll be asked to choose one from a small number of topics. The topic for Paper III will be your choice, and subject to my approval, which means we’ll discuss it during my office hours or at another agreed time.
LECTURES and READINGS:

Week 1. Introduction. General problems about causation. The Skeptics.
Readings: Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*, Bk. III. chaps. IV-V. (CW)


Week 4. The Scholastics: Francisco Suarez. On efficient causality.

PAPER I due Wednesday, February 16.


Week 6. Spinoza.
Readings: *Ethics*, Part I, Defns. and Axioms, Props. 16-18, 28, 29, 32, 33, Appendix; Part II, Defns. and Axioms, Props. 7, 48. (References to the Propositions include the Proofs and (where they exist) the Scholia, Corollaries, and Explications.) (All CW and Reserve)

Week 7. Leibniz.

Week 8. Hume.

Week 9. Spring Break: March 12-20

PAPER II due Wednesday, March 23.


Weeks 11-12. Kant.

Readings: Articles by selected authors: Davidson, Lewis, Kim, Bennett, Collins (CW and Reserve).

PAPER III due Wednesday, April 20.


Last day of class: April 27
Reading Period, May 3-5.

SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY (not on Reserve)