

Topics in Early Modern Philosophy: Spinoza's Metaphysics

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Topic

This course will be an in-depth study of the first two parts of Spinoza's *Ethics*.

Required Text

We'll be using Curley's translation of the *Ethics*, which can be found in *The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume I* (Princeton University Press, 1985, \$100), *A Spinoza Reader: The Ethics and Other Works* (Princeton University Press, 1994, \$35) and *Ethics* (Penguin Classics, 1996, \$14).

By the first week of classes I will make available a packet of readings for you to photocopy. The packet will contain chapters from Nadler's *Spinoza's Ethics*, Della Rocca's *Spinoza*, Wolfson's *Philosophy of Spinoza* and Bennett's *A Study of Spinoza's Ethics* as well as papers by Garrett, Gabbey, Carriero, Lin, Marshall and others.

Schedule

Before the start of the semester you should re-read the first two parts of Spinoza's *Ethics* several times.

Date	Topic	Primary Reading
9/9	No class due to Rosh Hashanah	
9/16	Overview	Parts one and two
9/23	Basic Concepts	Axioms and definitions of part one
9/30	Derived Properties of Substances	1P1-1P6
10/7	Ontological Argument	1P7-1P11
10/14	Substance Monism	1P12-1P20
10/21	Finite Infinite Modes	1P21-1P28
10/28	Necessitarianism	1P26-Appendix
11/4	Thought	Axioms and definitions of part two, 2P1-2P4
11/11	Parallelism	2P5-2P9, 3P2
11/18	Mind, Body and Individuals	2P10-P15
11/25	No class due to Thanksgiving	
12/2	Kinds of Cognition	2P16-Appendix
12/9	Conatus Doctrine	Definitions of part three, 3P1-3P7

I will suggest secondary reading from the course packet.

References to the *Ethics* begin with the part number followed by D, A or P (depending on whether it is a definition, axiom or proposition) followed by the number Spinoza assigns it. References to demonstrations, corollaries and scholia include a D, C or S at the end. For example, 1P2 is the second proposition of part one.

Requirements

Regular attendance and a 15-25 page paper due on the first day of finals.