

## History of Philosophy



[Roosevelt University](#), Fall 2012, PHIL 250, **Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15 pm**  
Professor Svetozar Minkov

### Questions of the Course

We will begin with what is perhaps the ancients' richest account of the meaning of philosophy: both in its consideration of the human situation and its account of reality. We will then study the early modern effort to revive philosophy (after what the modern regarded as its medieval decline); and we will finish with the late-modern concern that philosophy is impossible or undesirable. By the end of the course, students should be able to treat several fundamental questions in the history of philosophy (purpose of philosophy; nature of causality; meaning of nature) with some confidence, precision, and nuance.

### Communication

According to University policy, students are responsible for communications to their Roosevelt e-mail address.

### Readings

Plato's *Phaedo*. Selections from Francis Bacon and Thomas Hobbes. Selections from Kant. Heidegger's "What is That--Philosophy?"

Most of the readings will be linked to here or distributed in class (or by email).

## Reading Assignments

August 30, Phaedo, 58-68 (marginal/ "Stephanus" numbers; pp. 3-21 in Cope:  
<http://archive.org/details/phaedoliterally00platuoft>)

September 4, Phaedo, up to p. 42 in Cope: <http://archive.org/details/phaedoliterally00platuoft>

September 6, Phaedo

September 11, Phaedo, read up to the bottom of p. 55

September 13, Phaedo [**first short paper due**; [guidelines](#)]

September 18, Phaedo

September 20, Phaedo

September 25, Phaedo

September 27, Phaedo

October 2, Phaedo

October 4, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(Novum Organum\)](#)

October 9, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(Novum Organum\)](#)

October 11, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(Advancement of Learning\)](#)

October 16, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(De augmentis\)](#)  
[**second short paper due**; [guidelines](#)]

October 18, Hobbes, [Leviathan](#) (Intro and Ch. I)

[October 19--last day to withdraw with a W grade]

October 23, Leviathan, Ch. II-III

October 25, Leviathan, Ch. IV

October 30, Leviathan

November 1, Nietzsche, On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense

November 6, Nietzsche, On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense

November 8, On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense [**third short paper due, on Hobbes and/or Nietzsche; [guidelines](#)**]

November 13, Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols

November 15, Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols

November 20, Thanksgiving break (no class)

November 25, Thanksgiving break (no class)

November 27, Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols [**fourth short paper due, on Nietzsche; [guidelines](#)**]

November 29, Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols

December 4, What is Philosophy?

December 6, Concluding Discussion