

PHILOSOPHY 464: SPINOZA

Professor Steven Nadler

Spring 2012

Office: 5109 Helen White Hall

Office Hours: Wed 1:30-3:00; Fri 11-12

Email: smnadler@ wisc.edu

Required texts:

Baruch Spinoza, *A Spinoza Reader*, edited by E. Curley (Princeton)

Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*, translated by Samuel Shirley (Hackett)

Baruch Spinoza, *The Letters* (Hackett)

Recommended texts:

Steven Nadler, *Spinoza: A Life* (Cambridge)

Steven Nadler, *Spinoza's Ethics: An Introduction* (Cambridge)

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the day's reading. This will involve both responding to questions and raising your own questions. Each person is required to bring to each class meeting at least one question or puzzle generated by the reading assignment. You need not have an answer to the question, but you must have a question and be prepared to say what exactly the problem is.

Written Work:

Two five page papers, discussing some aspect of Spinoza's philosophy (e.g., addressing in greater depth a particular topic or problem that was discussed in class). You have the option of satisfying the "two paper" requirement by treating the first paper as a short (five page) draft of what will eventually become a ten-page paper.

Reading Schedule:

Week 1

Jan 23: Introduction

Jan 25: *Ethics*, Part I, Definitions and Axioms; Letter 9.

Jan 27: Ip1-8

Week 2

Jan 30: Ip9-14; Letters 8, 9, 12

Feb 1: Ip15-25; Letter 64

Feb 3: Ip26-36

Week 3

Feb 6: I Appendix; Letters 55-56

Feb 8: II, Definitions, Axioms, p1-6.

Feb 10: IIp7-13 (up to A1')

Week 4

Feb 13: Letters 63-66

Feb 15: IIA1'-IIp15

Feb 17: IIp16-31

Week 5

Feb 20: IIp32-44; Letter 60

Feb 22: IIp44-47

Feb 24: IIp48-49 (end of Part II); Letters 57-58.

Week 6

Feb 27: III, Preface, Definitions, Postulates, p1-2

Feb 29: IIIp3-10

March 2: NO CLASS

Week 7

March 5: IIIp11-30

March 7: IIIp31-49

March 9: IIIp50-end of Part III.

Week 8

March 12: IV, Preface, Definitions, Axiom, p1-4

March 14: IVp5-17

March 16: NO CLASS: First paper due

Week 9

March 19: IVp18-28

March 21: IVp29-37 (up through Scholium 1)

March 23: IVp37Scholium 2-p58

Week 10

March 26: "Catch up day": continue same reading from March 23

March 28: IVp59-66

March 30: IVp67-Appendix (i.e., finish Part IV).

SPRING BREAK

Week 11

April 9: V, Preface, Axioms, p1-9

April 11: Vp10-20

April 13: Vp21-34

Week 12

April 16: Vp35-42

April 18: Letters 29-30; 68; 71; 73; 74-75.

April 20: *Theological-Political Treatise* (TTP), Preface, 1-3

Week 13

April 23: TTP, 4-5

April 25: TTP, 6

April 27: NO CLASS

Week 14

April 30: TTP, 7

May 2: TTP, 8-11

May 4: TTP, 12-16

Week 15

May 7: TTP, 16-17

May 9: TTP, 18-20

May 11: Second Paper due