

INSTRUCTOR: Colin McLearn  
COURSE: PHIL 971  
TIME: T 1:30–3:35 p.m.  
LOCATION: OLDH 1007  
OFFICE: 1003 Oldfather Hall

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<http://colinmclear.net>  
Department of Philosophy  
OFFICE HOURS: T/R 4–5 p.m.

# INTROSPECTION & SELF-KNOWLEDGE

## Course Overview

The course will examine views concerning introspection and self-knowledge as they appear in the work of three central early modern figures: Descartes, Locke, and Kant. We will also look at how these views have been developed and modified in contemporary philosophy. Questions of interest include:

- What is self-knowledge?
- Is self-knowledge special? (e.g. is it especially epistemically secure?)
- How is self-knowledge gained? (e.g. via sensory means?)
- Does self-knowledge require consciousness?

## Required Materials

You will need the following books for this course. All materials are available at the campus bookstore.

- Descartes, *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes, vol. 2*
- Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*

Other readings will be posted on the [course website](#) or found at:

- <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com>

## Course Requirements

- **Preparation:** You are expected to attend every class meeting fully prepared to discuss each assigned reading, to submit written work punctually, and to offer thoughtful and constructive responses to the remarks of your instructor and your classmates. Make sure that you bring the relevant readings with you to every class. I further expect you to treat both the texts at hand and your classmates' ideas with openness and respect.

- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. Absences will not be excused except in documented cases. 1/2 a letter grade will be deducted from your final course grade for every unexcused absence after your fourth.
- **Website:** We will use a course website for all materials. The site is available at: <http://colinmclear.net/phil971>. Upcoming assignments and secondary readings will be posted there. Please let me know if you have any problems. Technical glitches, computer malfunctions and crashing hard drives are not excuses for failing to complete work in this class.
- **Format for Papers:** Please submit work either as a rich text (rtf) or Microsoft Word file. All work must be typed. I will not accept any handwritten work aside from that which we do in class. Your papers should be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with margins set to one inch on all sides. Your name, my name, the date and assignment should appear in the top left hand corner of the first page. Your last name and page number must appear in the top right hand corner on each subsequent page. Please staple or paperclip hard copies of papers and drafts. You are responsible for the presentation of your papers.
- **Late Work:** Late papers and assignments will standardly be marked down by 1/3 of a letter grade for each day the work is late (for example, from A- to B+, from B+ to B, and so on). If you foresee a conflict between due dates for an assignment and other of your commitments, please come talk to me!

## Evaluation

### Research Paper: 65%

- In two drafts. Topics will be suggested.

### Reading Responses: 20%

- Reading responses (typically no more than 500 words in length) are due by 9 p.m. on the Monday evening prior to class. Responses should primarily be focussed on asking questions relevant to the reading or class discussion.

### Participation: 15%

- The participation grade is based on your overall engagement with the course, including attendance, classroom discussion, and individual meetings with me. Please note: the grade will take into account both the quality and quantity of your participation.

## Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** All the work you turn in (including papers, drafts, and reading responses) must be written by you specifically for this course. Your work must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Make yourself familiar with UNL's Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity Code, available online at <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code>. **In this course, the normal penalty for any violation of the code is an “F” for the semester.** Violations may have additional consequences including expulsion from the university. Don't plagiarize – it just isn't worth it.
- **University Policies:** This instructor respects and upholds University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective University regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.
- **ADA:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation series, students must be registered with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.
- **Misc.:** Please turn off cell phones, beeping watches, and other gadgets that make noise before entering our classroom. Absolutely no texting is permitted during class. I will subtract up to five points from your participation grade each and every time your phone rings or I see you texting during class.

## Further Resources

- **Jargon:** It's important to be on top of the technical terms used by philosophers. Please ask for clarification of terms in class. You can also consult Jim Pryor's online "[Philosophical Terms and Methods](#)."
- **Writing a Philosophy paper:** Papers should adhere to some consistent practice of footnoting and citation (Chicago, MLA, etc.). I don't really mind which one you use as long as you are consistent. On writing a philosophy paper, there is no better on-line guide than [Jim Pryor's](#). Please consult it. Hacker's *A Writer's Reference* is also extremely helpful. Useful online references may be found at the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#).

- **Help with writing:** The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Writing Center can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as for every course in which you enroll. Trained peer consultants are available to talk with you as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. Please check the Writing Center website at: <http://www.unl.edu/writing> for locations, hours, and information about scheduling appointments.
- **Reference:** The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu>) offers excellent background resources for all the major figures and topics that we will discuss in class.

# Introspection & Self-Knowledge

## Readings

University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
mclear@unl.edu

PHIL 971 | Spring 2016

### Class 1: Introduction (1/12)

- Overview of course
- Background reading
  - SEP entries:
    - \* [Self-Knowledge](#)
    - \* [Introspection](#)
    - \* [17th Century Theories of Consciousness](#)
  - Excerpt from [Thiel, \*The Early Modern Subject\*](#)

### Class 2: Descartes (1/19)

- Descartes
  - *Meditations* I-VI, especially I-II and VI
  - *Principles* I.9, 13
  - Selections from the *Objections & Replies*
- Secondary literature
  - Broughton, “Self-Knowledge”
  - Hatfield, *Descartes & the Meditations* (ch. 4)
  - Williams, *Descartes* (ch. 3)
  - Peacocke, “Descartes Defended”

### Class 3: Descartes vs. Malebranche on Self-Knowledge (1/26)

- Descartes
  - *Meditation* II: AT VII:29-33 (CSM II:20-3)
  - Fifth Objections: AT VII:273-77 (CSM II:191-93)
  - Fifth Reply: AT VII:350-61 (CSM II:243-49)
  - *Principles* I.11 (CSM I:196)
- Malebranche
  - *Search after Truth* (excerpts)
    - \* III.1.1 (197-202), III.2.7 (236-40)
    - \* Elucidation 11 (633-38)
- Secondary Readings
  - Lolordo 2005

- Nolan 2005
- Jolly 2009

## Class 4: Acquaintance (2/2)

- Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*, chs, 4-5
- Gertler, “Renewed acquaintance”
- Chalmers, “The content and epistemology of phenomenal belief”
- Duncan, “We are acquainted with ourselves”
- Fumerton, *excerpt on acquaintance*
- Barnes, *Critical Notice*

## Class 5: Inner Sense (2/16)

- Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
  - Bk II, chs. 1, 6-7, 9-11, 19-20, 27
  - Bk IV, chs. 1-5, 9
- Weinberg, *The Coherence of Consciousness in Locke’s “Essay”*
- Thiel, *excerpt on Locke*
- Gertler, *SEP entry on inner-sense*
- Armstrong, *Introspection*
- Goldman, *Self-attribution*

## Class 6: Against Inner Sense (2/23)

- Geach, “The notion of “inner sense”
- Shoemaker, “Self-Knowledge and ‘Inner Sense’”
  - *lecture 1*
  - *lecture 2*
  - *lecture 3*
- MacDonald, “Shoemaker on self-knowledge and inner sense”
- Kind, *Shoemaker, self-blindness, and Moore’s paradox*”

## Class 7: Against inner sense (continued) (3/1)

- Shoemaker, et al

## Class 8: Leibniz on Reflection (3/8)

- Leibniz readings

- *New Essays*, Preface and excerpts
- *Meditations on Truth, Knowledge, and Ideas*
- *New System*
- *Principles of Nature and Grace*
- Secondary readings
  - Mcrae 1976, “perception”
  - Thiel 1994
  - Jorgensen 2011
  - Simmons 2011

## Class 9: Kant on Inner Sense (3/15)

- Kant readings
  - *The False Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures* (1762)
  - *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/7)
    - \* Transcendental Aesthetic (B-edition)
    - \* Transcendental Deduction (A-edition)
    - \* Transcendental Deduction (B-edition), §24
  - “From Soemmerring’s *On the organ of the soul*” (1796)
  - *Anthropology*, excerpts (1800)
- Secondary materials
  - Kitcher, *Kant’s Thinker* (excerpts)
    - \* chapter 2
    - \* chapter 5
  - Ameriks, *Kant’s Theory of Mind*
    - \* “Ideality”
  - Valaris, “Inner sense”
  - Schmitz, “On Kant’s Conception of inner sense”
  - McLear, “Kant on Animal Consciousness”

## Class 10: Kant on Pure Apperception (3/28)

- Kant readings
  - Transcendental Deduction (B-edition)
  - Paralogisms 2-3 (A-edition)
- Secondary materials
  - Kitcher, *Kant’s Thinker* (excerpts)
    - \* chapter 9
    - \* chapter 10
  - Engstrom, “Unity of Apperception”
  - Merritt, “Kant’s Argument for the Apperception Principle”
  - Thiel, “Between Wolff and Kant”

## Class 11: The Need for Self-Knowledge (4/5)

- Burge
  - “Our entitlement to self-knowledge”
  - “Reason and the first person”
- Boyle, “Two kinds of self-knowledge”

## Class 12: Additive vs. Transformative Rationality & Self-Knowledge (4/12)

- McDowell, “Rational and other animals”
- Boyle, “Additive theories of rationality”
- Kornblith, “Human knowledge and reflection”

## Class 13: Consciousness & Self-Knowledge (4/19)

- Boyle, “Additive theories of rationality”
- Dretske, “How do you know you are not a zombie?”
- Byrne, “Knowing what I see”
- Byrne, “Introspection”

## Class 14: Transparency (4/26)

- Byrne on transparency
  - “Introspection”
  - “Knowing what I see”
  - “Transparency, belief, intention”
- Boyle, “Transparent self-knowledge”
- Valaris, “Transparency as inference”
- Setiya, “Transparency and inference”
- Roessler, “The silence of self-knowledge”
- Barnett, “Inferential justification and the transparency of belief”
- Paul, “The transparency of mind”