



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 667 – Topics in Philosophy of Science
Lec 01, Topic 2- “Mechanism”**

Fall Term 2010

Course Outline

**Lectures: Monday, 12:00 – 14:30 in EDC 284
(Meets jointly with PHIL 517)**

Instructor: Dr. Megan Delehanty

Office: SS 1240

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Office Hours: Mondays 16:00-17:00, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will be an examination of mechanism and mechanical philosophy. We will begin with ancient atomists, move through the early modern period (e.g., Gassendi, Descartes, Newton), and finish with the contemporary resurgence of mechanism in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Required Texts

There is no required text. Weekly readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation

Class Presentation 30%

Each student will do a 20-30 minutes in-class presentation on **one** of the weekly readings. The schedule for these presentations will be determined in class

70%

Term Paper

Length should be ~12-15 pages. Due **Friday, December 10, by 12:00 noon.**

It is not necessary to pass any one individual component to pass the class as a whole.

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

As specified in the University Calendar, course outlines are now required to “Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student’s work. (See E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum statement.)” Writing and the grading thereof is very much a factor in the evaluation of your work in this course. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and well-organized. Your arguments should be clear and comprehensible to the reader: grammatical and other errors that make your argument unclear or incomprehensible will result in a lower grade.

Grading Scale

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

Policy on Late Assignments

No late assignments or make-up exams are permitted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date.

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the lectures, assignments, and due dates for assignments.