

PHILOSOPHY 354

INDUCTIVISM AND RATIONALISM

SPRING SEMESTER 2006

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lisa Shapiro, WML 4625

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Descartes: *Skeptic Philosophical Meditations* - F. Gifford trans.

Descartes: *Methodius* - Gifford trans.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the history of philosophy, focusing on the rationalist tradition. It begins with a discussion of the nature of reason and the limits of human knowledge. We will then examine the work of several key figures in the rationalist tradition, including Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. The course will conclude with a discussion of the implications of rationalism for contemporary philosophy.

Prerequisites:

None. This course is designed for students with no previous background in philosophy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions. There will be two major papers and a final exam. The final exam will be held on the last day of class.

Note: Please refer to the syllabus for more information.