

**Department of Philosophy**  
**Philosophical Fundamentals**  
**PHIL 301**  
**Winter 2014**

Prof. Emily Carson  
Leacock 936;  
Office hours: TTh 11:30-12:30  
e-mail: emily.carson@mcgill.ca

This course is required of, and open only to, students currently enrolled in Honours or Joint Honours in Philosophy, and who have completed PHIL 210 or the equivalent.

The course will focus on several associated skills: the ability to read a difficult text both charitably and critically; the ability to write and revise a philosophical essay; the ability to construct and reconstruct arguments with the appropriate level of rigour; and the ability to engage in philosophical discussion. The subject this term will be central debates in modern philosophy from Descartes to Kant. We will read the original sources together with contemporary commentaries.

**Course requirements:** 10 weekly discussion questions (20%), due by e-mail on Monday of each week; 2 short papers plus one revision (40%); a longer final paper (40%).

**Text:** *Debates in Modern Philosophy: Essential readings and contemporary responses*, Stewart Duncan and Antonia LoLordo (eds.), Routledge: 2013. The book is available at The Word bookstore on Milton Street.

**Policy on extensions:** No extensions will be given without a medical note. Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day (e.g., from a A to a A-). Discussion questions will not be accepted after 12pm on Mondays.

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures; see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information.*