

PHIL 480
Topics in the History of Philosophy
Topic for 2023: Idealisms: du Châtelet and Kant

Instructor: Prof. Emily Carson
Office: Leacock 936
Office hours: by appointment
Email: emily.carson@mcgill.ca

MW 1:30-3
EDUC 433

The main focus of the course is Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* where Kant sets out his Transcendental Idealism. We will approach the text by comparing it to the idealist view put forward by du Châtelet in her *Institutions de Physique*, where she attempts to combine Newtonian science and Leibnizian philosophy. While her work exhibits the rationalist tendencies Kant rejects, her view is tempered by her Newtonian sympathies, and therefore provides an instructive comparison for Kant's project.

Text: Du Châtelet's *Institutions de Physique* will be made available in translation on MyCourses; Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* is available at The Word bookstore on Milton.

Evaluation:

- i. Short paper (1000 words) 15%
- ii. Short paper (1250 words) 25%
- iii. Final paper (2500 words) 60%, broken down as follows:
 - Peer review 10%
 - Final paper + review document 50%

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded.

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.

As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and/or Student Accessibility and Achievement.

McGill University is on land which long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.