

Centre for the Study of Theory & Criticism  
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Course #9204 group A  
 Fall 2019  
 Wed. 10: 30 to 1:30 pm

### **Immaterialism**

This course treats one of the fundamental and most contested ideas in philosophy and theory: immaterialism. The readings, some of which are taken from the Theory qualifying exam list, will focus on the role of the immaterial in the history of metaphysics, while also charting materialism's emergence in seventeenth-century thought. Our primary goal will be to grasp the notions of the immaterial as both foundational for metaphysics and occultish. Reflecting on its history from antiquity to early modernity, we will assess the fortunes of the incorporeal in an era of mechanistic materialism. Another aim will be to gauge the poetic and eclectic styles of philosophical writing that the immaterial elicits. The course concludes with one contemporary theorist's return to the incorporeal as a critique of materialism.

*Course Materials:* *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan* is available at the UWO bookstore. Please purchase a copy. All other texts will be photocopied for you.

#### *Syllabus*

##### Phase One: A Short History of Metaphysics From the Point of View of Immaterialism

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| Sept 11 | Introduction; Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> excerpt  |
| Sept 18 | Plato cont'd, Plotinus from <i>Essential Plotinus</i> "The Intelligence, The Ideas, and Being" (V, 9[5]) and "The Descent of the Soul" (IV, 8[6]) |
| Sept 25 | Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> Book 1 ch 1-2 pp 253-9; Book 4 ch 1-2; Book 7,  |
| Oct 2   | Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> Book 7 cont'd; Book 12  |
| Oct 9   | Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> selection<br>Ibn Tufayl, <i>Hayy Ibn Yaqzan</i> (Read pp 93-130; L. Goodman intro optional)                            |
| Oct 16  | Ibn Tufayl, <i>Hayy Ibn Yaqzan</i> (pages 130-166)  |

##### Phase Two: Early Modern Philosophy: Materialism contra Immaterialism?

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| Oct 23 | Stoicism: excerpt from A.A. Long and D.N. Sedley, eds. |
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- Oct 30 Cambridge Platonism: excerpt from Ralph Cudworth, *True Intellectual System of the Universe*
- Nov 6 Fall Reading Week
- Nov 13 Anne Conway, *The Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy* ch 1-2, 6-8; Jacqueline Broad, “Anne Conway” in *Women Philosophers of the Seventeenth Century*
- Nov 20 W. G. Leibniz, “The Principles of Philosophy, or, the Monadology”  
Daniel Garber and Margaret Wilson, “Mind Body Problems” in *Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. Daniel Garber et al.
- Conclusions
- Nov 27 Elizabeth Grosz, from *The Incorporeal*