

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	W7309
Unit Name	From Descartes to Kant
Unit Weighting	9cps
Type of Unit	Specialised
Prerequisites, corequisites	W7106 and W7109
Academic Staff	Dr Matthew Del Nevo. BA (AppSocSci) (Lanchester 1980), BD Hons (Sydney 1991), GradDipRE (ACU 2001), PhD (Sydney 1996)
Curriculum Objectives	This course unit covers the history of thought in the West from the time of Descartes (early 17 th century) to the time of Kant (end of the 18 th century).
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discuss in detail the thought of at least one major figure of the period b) Situate that thought in its historical context c) Analyse and interpret primary sources of the period d) Identify the shifts in thought as the period advances in time e) Relate the ideas of the period to developments in Christian theology
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	Early modernity is a time of great diversity and change in Western philosophy.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close reading of two or three primary sources 2. Descartes and new metaphysics 3. Development metaphysical philosophy (e.g. Spinoza, Leibniz) 4. Development of cultural philosophy (e.g. Pascal, Rousseau) 5. From Scepticism to Enlightenment in philosophy (e.g. Hume, Kant)
Learning Activities	Private study , lectures, seminars, tutorials.
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	Internet access
Assessment Profile	Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, <u>assessment of student achievement with respect to the Unit Outcomes will be based on:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textual analysis and appreciation of Descartes [Outcomes a, c, e] 2. Topical essay on philosophical developments after Descartes [Outcomes b, d, e] 3. Essay or exam on the precursory philosophy of the Enlightenment. [Outcomes a, b, e]
Representative References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Barker, Peter, Roger Ariew (eds). <i>Revolution and Continuity : Essays in the History and Philosophy of Early Modern Science</i>. Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1991. b) Byrne, Peter. <i>Kant on God</i>. Aldershot Burlington, VT : Ashgate, 2007. c) Cottingham, John (ed). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Descartes</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. d) Deleuze, Gilles. <i>Spinoza: Practical Philosophy</i>. Translated by Robert Hurley. San Francisco : City Lights Books, 1988. e) Guyer, P. (ed.). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy</i>. Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2006.

- f) Kennington, Richard. *On Modern Origins : essays in Early Modern Philosophy*. Edited by Pamela Kraus and Frank Hunt. Lanham MD: Lexington, 2004.
- g) Lawrenz, Jürgen. *Leibniz : the Nature of Reality and the Reality of Nature : a Study of Leibniz's Double-Aspect Ontology and the Labyrinth of the Continuum*. London: Continuum, 2010.
- h) Mack, Michael. *Spinoza and the Specters of Modernity : the Hidden Enlightenment of Diversity from Spinoza to Freud*. London: Continuum, 2010.
- i) Nadler, Stephen. *A Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*. Malden Mass: Blackwell, 2002.
- j) Norton, David Fate. *The Cambridge Companion to Hume*. Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- k) Rutherford, Donald (ed). *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- l) Smith, Norman Kemp. *The Philosophy of David Hume*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005.
- m) Yoder, Timothy. *Irony, Deism and Pure Theism*. New York: Continuum, 2008