

# Classical Modern Philosophy

A contemporary introduction

To my splendid daughter  
My teacher for what counts most  
With my love and admiration

Jeffrey Tlumak

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<b>1 Descartes and the Rise of Modern Philosophy</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background to Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>	2
1.2 Descartes' innovations in how philosophy is written	10
1.3 Lead-in to the First Meditation	13
1.4 The First Meditation	15
1.5 The Second Meditation	22
1.6 The Third Meditation	32
1.7 The Fourth Meditation	38
1.8 The Fifth Meditation	47
1.9 The Sixth Meditation	59
1.10 A summary of Cartesian commitments	66
1.11 Topical highlights from Descartes' correspondence	69
1.12 Questions about Descartes	71
1.13 Transition to the remainder of the book	74
1.14 Some recommended books	75
<b>2 Spinoza</b>	<b>77</b>
2.1 Overview of Spinoza's philosophy and life	77
2.2 <i>Ethics</i> Part I: On the nature of the universe	80
2.3 <i>Ethics</i> Part II: On the nature and origin of the mind	88
2.4 <i>Ethics</i> Part III: On the nature and origin of actions and passions	95
2.5 <i>Ethics</i> Part IV: On the burdens of human existence and the ways to overcome them	98
2.6 <i>Ethics</i> Part V: On the power of reason to liberate us to live blessedly	100

2.7	Questions about Spinoza	102
2.8	Some recommended books	104
<b>3</b>	<b>Locke</b>	<b>106</b>
3.1	An overview of Locke's outlook in the <i>Essay</i>	106
3.2	<i>Essay Book I</i> : Locke's anti-innatist strategy	109
3.3	<i>Essay Book II</i> : Perception as the basis for all thinking	110
3.4	Test Case One: Thinking about power	114
3.5	Test Case Two: Thinking about substance	116
3.6	Test Case Three: Thinking about identity	118
3.7	<i>Essay Book III</i> : Expressing thought in language	122
3.8	<i>Essay Book IV</i> : Knowledge and opinion	125
3.9	Questions about Locke	128
3.10	Some recommended books	131
<b>4</b>	<b>Leibniz</b>	<b>133</b>
4.1	Background to Leibniz's philosophy	133
4.2	Overview of Leibniz's philosophy	136
4.3	How the <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> and the <i>Monadology</i> are structured	138
4.4	Understanding Leibniz's metaphysics by way of his defense of contingency	141
4.5	Understanding the debate about what things for Leibniz are substances	155
4.6	Understanding the debate about Leibniz's essentialism	158
4.7	Understanding what it means for the world to be the best possible	159
4.8	Understanding debates about relations among key Leibnizian theses	164
4.9	Space and time as relations among phenomena	166
4.10	Key elements of Leibniz's epistemology	169
4.11	Questions about Leibniz	171
4.12	Some recommended books	173
<b>5</b>	<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>174</b>
5.1	Overview of approach to the <i>Principles</i>	174
5.2	Structure of the <i>Principles</i>	176
5.3	A fuller analysis of four key arguments	180
5.4	Structure of the <i>Three Dialogues</i>	186
5.5	A mini-glossary to aid interpretation	189
5.6	Questions about Berkeley	190
5.7	Some recommended books	191

<b>6</b>	<b>Hume</b>	<b>193</b>
6.1	Main alternatives for interpreting Hume	193
6.2	An outline of the first <i>Enquiry</i>	195
6.3	<i>Enquiry</i> Sections I-III: Basic principles and materials of the understanding	196
6.4	<i>Enquiry</i> Sections IV-VII: The basis for all factual thinking	199
6.5	<i>Enquiry</i> Section VIII: Implications for freedom and morality	201
6.6	<i>Enquiry</i> Section X: Implications for religion based on miracles	205
6.7	<i>Treatise</i> : Overview and key elements of Book I, on the understanding	208
	6.7.1 A famous perplexity about how to read <i>Treatise</i> Book I	213
6.8	<i>Treatise</i> : Key elements of Book II, on the passions	221
6.9	<i>Treatise</i> : Key elements of Book III, on morality	225
6.10	<i>Dialogues</i> : Overview and stage-setting Part I	226
6.11	<i>Dialogues</i> Parts II-VIII: Design argument for natural religion	230
6.12	<i>Dialogues</i> Part IX: Cosmological, <i>a priori</i> proof of theism	232
6.13	<i>Dialogues</i> Parts X-XI: Evil as challenge to theism	234
6.14	<i>Dialogues</i> Part XII: Guides to deciding Hume's overall message	237
6.15	Questions about Hume	238
6.16	Some recommended books	242
<b>7</b>	<b>Kant</b>	<b>244</b>
7.1	The central strand of Kant's argument	244
7.2	A précis of the <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>	249
	7.2.1 <i>Prefaces and Introduction: Clarifying the project</i>	250
	7.2.2 <i>Transcendental Aesthetic: How we receive data</i>	254
	7.2.3 <i>Transcendental Analytic: How we understand data</i>	258
	7.2.4 <i>Transcendental Dialectic: How we fundamentally misapply thought</i>	278
7.3	Exploration of pivotal stages of Kant's argument	291
	7.3.1 <i>My general orientation to the Critique</i>	291
	7.3.2 <i>A fuller analysis of introductory material</i>	295
	7.3.3 <i>A fuller analysis of the Aesthetic</i>	300
	7.3.4 <i>A fuller analysis of the Analytic of Concepts</i>	303
	7.3.5 <i>A fuller analysis of the Analytic of Principles</i>	312
	7.3.6 <i>The transition from the Analytic to the Dialectic</i>	320
	7.3.7 <i>A fuller analysis of the Transcendental Dialectic</i>	324

7.3.8	The transition from theoretical to practical philosophy	330
7.4	The philosophical foundations for moral theory	333
7.5	Kant on philosophical method	342
7.6	The <i>Prolegomena's</i> relation to the <i>Critique</i>	343
7.7	Questions about Kant	345
7.8	Some recommended books	348
<b>Bibliography</b>		<b>353</b>
<b>Index</b>		<b>357</b>