Machamer/ McGuire Descartes Seminar
Thursdays, 3 pm, G-28 CL, Spring 2000

Jan. 6, Introduction

13 Descartes, Meditations (1640 Latin)
***operative, exhaustive knowledge of the Meditations will be presupposed from this point onwards.

20 Francesco Suarez, On Efficient Causality, ed. Alfred J Freddoso (Yale UP, 1994) (part of Disputationes Metaphysicae, 1597)

27 Pedro Amaral, Descartes' Sixth Meditation, mss. (287 pp.)
Secondary: Etienne Gilson, Etudes sur le role de la pensee medievale dans la formation du system cartesien. (Paris: J. Vrin 1951)

3 Feb. The Causes: 2nd (Mersenne) and 4th (Arnauld) Sets of Objections and Replies
Secondary: Machamer "Descartes and the Causes" in Machamer and Turnbull, Motion and Time, Space and Matter, (Ohio State University Press, 1976), 168-199;
Roger Woolhouse, The Concept of Substance in Seventeenth Century Metaphysics (Routledge, 1993)
N. Kemp Smith, New Studies on the Philosophy of Descartes. (London: Macmillan 1952)

Secondary: J L Marion, article in Cambridge Companion to Descartes, ed. Cottingham.

17 God: PP Book I; Letters, Descartes to More (5 Feb 1649); to Clerselier, 23 April 1649; to Mersenne, 27 May 1630; to Mersenne, 18 March 1641; to Mesland, 2 May 1649; CB 19, 24, 50
Secondary: Gary Hatfield, "Force (God) in Descartes' Physics" *Studies in HPS* (1979) 10, pp. 113-40


2 March, Substance: PP I, 2nd Set of Objections and Replies; CB 22, 25

16 Mind and Body as substances: reread Med VI, PP I, 54 f.; II. 11,

23 The Physical World: Extension: Med. II, PP II; To More 15 April 1649; to Gibieuf, 19 Jan 1642; Phil Writings, Vol II, 298, 114.

30 Mind: Innate Ideas: Comments on a Certain Broadsheet

April 6 Mind/Body interaction: Passions of the Soul; PP I 54-60; To Elizabeth, 21 May 1643; to Hyperaspistes, Aug 1641; Clerselier, 12 Jan 1646; to Arnaud, 21 July 1648; to More, 5 Feb 1649.

13 Is Descartes a Dualist?

2 March, Substance: PP I, 2nd Set of Objections and Replies; CB 22, 25

16 Mind and Body as substances: reread Med VI, PP I, 54 f.; II. 11, 4th reply to Arnauld, pp.157-161

23 The Physical World: Extension: Med. II, PP II; To More 15 April 1649; to Gibieuf, 19 Jan 1642; Phil Writings, Vol II, 298, 114.

30 Mind: Innate Ideas: Comments on a Certain Broadsheet

April 6 Mind/Body interaction: *Passions of the Soul*; PP I 54-60; To Elizabeth, 21 May 1643; to Hyperaspistes, Aug 1641; Clerselier, 12 Jan 1646; to Arnaud, 21 July 1648; to More, 5 Feb 1649.

13 Is Descartes a Dualist or Trialist? General Discussion
Rozemond, Chap. 6
Cottingham "Cartesian Trialism" *Mind* 94 (1985), pp. 218-30
Readings from Descartes,
Principles of Philosophy (Latin 1644; French, Abbe Picot translation 1647)
Discourse on Method (French 1637)
Optics (and Geometry, Meteorology with Discours, 1638)
Rules of the Mind, Regulae (unpublished, c. 1628)
The World (Le Monde) (unpublished, worked on until 1632, but some additions later)
On Man (De Homine) (meant as part II of Le Monde)
Objections and Replies to Mediations, (1641 onwards)
Comments on a Certain Broadsheet, 1647 (to Regius)
The Passions of the Soul. 1649 (Le passions de l'ame)
The Correspondence, Philosophical Writings of Descartes, Vol III,
Ed J. Cottingham (Cambridge)

Edition of Works, Charles Adam and Paul Tannery, Oeuvres de Descartes (also copy in Grunbaum Philosophy reading room; donated by Jerry Massey)
Also useful, Etienne Gilson, Lexicon Scolastico-Cartesiene
John Cottingham, A Descartes Dictionary, Blackwell 1993

Course Requirements:

1. One seminar presentation, should be on a specific Descartes text, exegetical, analytic, and relating it to other relevant texts. Note: Copy of presentation must be distributed to class the day before the seminar!

2. Term paper; topic to be discussed with M and/or M before.