

**Modern Philosophy      Autumn 2001**  
**Descartes: Suggested Reading      Patterson**

The three-volume Philosophical Writings of Descartes translated by Cottingham, Stoothoff and Murdoch (CSM) and all items marked '\*' in the lists below are held on Short Loan in Birkbeck College Library.

The following abbreviations are used in the list of reading by topic:

- \*Chappell Chappell, Vere (ed.), Descartes's Meditations: Critical Essays (Rowman & Littlefield, 1997)
- \*OR Cottingham, John, Descartes (Oxford Readings in Philosophy), (OUP, 1998)
- \*CCD Cottingham, John (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to Descartes (CUP, 1992)
- \*Cottingham Cottingham, John, Descartes (Blackwell, 1986).
- Doney Doney, Willis, Descartes: Critical Essays (Macmillan, 1968)
- \*Rorty Rorty, Amelie (ed.), Essays on Descartes' Meditations (University of California, 1986)
- Voss Voss, Stephen (ed.), Essays on the Philosophy and Science of Rene Descartes (OUP, 1993)
- \*Williams Williams, Bernard, Descartes: The Project of Pure Enquiry (Penguin, 1978)
- \*Wilson Wilson, Margaret, Descartes (Routledge, 1978)

### **Other Books on Descartes**

- Cottingham, John (ed.), Reason, Will, and Sensation: Studies in Descartes's Metaphysics (Clarendon, 1994)
- Curley, Edwin, Descartes Against the Skeptics (Blackwell, 1978) (not held at BBK)
- Frankfurt, Harry, Demons, Dreamers and Madmen (Bobbs-Merrill, 1970) (not held at BBK)
- Gaukroger, Stephen (ed.), Descartes: Philosophy, Mathematics and Science (Harvester, 1980)
- Grene, Marjorie, Descartes (Harvester, 1985)
- Hooker, Michael (ed.), Descartes: Critical and Interpretive Essays (Johns Hopkins, 1978)
- \*Kenny, Anthony, Descartes: A Study of his Philosophy (Random House, 1968)
- Moyal, Georges (ed.), Descartes: Critical Assessments, Vols. I-IV (Routledge, 1991)
- Rozemond, Marleen, Descartes's Dualism (Harvard University Press, 1998)
- \*Sorell, Tom, Descartes (OUP, 1987)

The collection Descartes's Meditations: Background Source Materials (CUP, 1998), eds. R. Ariew, J. Cottingham and T. Sorell, contains excerpts from philosophical texts published in Descartes's time, providing interesting background and context for the Meditations.

### **Topics**

#### **Life and Historical Context**

- Desmond Clarke, 'Descartes' philosophy of science and the scientific revolution' in CCD
- Genevieve Rodis-Lewis, 'Descartes' life and the development of his philosophy,' in CCD

Nicholas Jolley, 'The reception of Descartes' philosophy' in CCD  
Gaukroger, Stephen, Descartes: An Intellectual Biography (Clarendon, 1995)  
Genevieve Rodis-Lewis, Descartes: His Life and Thought (Cornell, 1999)

## **Systematic Doubt**

Meditation I and the selections from the Objections and Replies; Principles I.1-6  
\*Daniel Garber, 'Semel in vita: the scientific background to Descartes' Meditations' in Rorty (P/C 1234)  
\*John Carriero, 'The First Meditation' Pac. Phil. Q. 1987, reprinted in Chappell (P/C 6200)  
Michael Williams, 'Descartes and the metaphysics of doubt' in Rorty

## **Cogito ergo sum**

Meditation II and the selections from the Objections and Replies; Principles I.7-12  
Curley, Ch. 4; Williams, Ch. 3; Wilson, Ch. 2  
Jaako Hintikka, 'Cogito ergo sum: Inference or performance?' Phil. Rev. 1962, reprinted in Doney  
Fred Feldman, 'The performatory interpretation of the cogito,' Phil. Rev. 1973  
Peter Markie, 'The cogito and its importance,' in CCD and OR

## **Clear and Distinct Ideas and the Cartesian Circle**

Meditations II, IV and V, parts of Second and Fourth Objections and corresponding Replies; Principles I.30-50  
Alan Gewirth, 'Clearness and distinctness in Descartes,' Philosophy 1943, reprinted in OR and Doney  
Alan Gewirtz, 'The Cartesian Circle,' Phil. Rev. 50 (1941)  
Alan Gewirth, 'The Cartesian Circle Reconsidered,' J. Phil. 67 (1970)  
Anthony Kenny, 'The Cartesian Circle and the Eternal Truths,' J. Phil. 67 (1970)  
Harry Frankfurt, 'Descartes' validation of reason,' APQ 1965  
James Van Cleve, 'Foundationalism, epistemic principles, and the Cartesian Circle,' Phil. Rev. 1979, reprinted in OR  
Janet Broughton, 'Skepticism and the Cartesian Circle,' Can. J. Phil. 1984  
Louis Loeb, 'The Cartesian Circle,' in CCD

## **Mind Distinct from Body**

Meditations II and VI, parts of Fourth and Sixth Objections and corresponding Replies; Principles I 53, 54, 60-62  
\*John Carriero, 'The Second Meditation and the essence of the mind,' in Rorty (P/C 1233)  
Margaret Wilson, 'The epistemological argument for mind-body distinctness,' Nous 1976, reprinted in OR and Chappell  
\*Marleen Rozemond, 'Descartes's case for dualism,' J. Hist. Phil. 1995 (P/C 1705)  
Dugald Murdoch, 'Exclusion and abstraction in Descartes' metaphysics,' Phil. Q. 1993

Susan James, 'The emergence of the Cartesian mind,' in History of the Mind-Body Problem, eds. T. Crane and S. Patterson (Routledge, 2000)

John Cottingham, 'Cartesian dualism: theology, metaphysics, and science,' in CCD

## **Mind-Body Union**

Meditation VI, letters to Princess Elizabeth (21 May 1643, 28 June 1643)

Williams, Ch. 10; Wilson, Ch. 6; Cottingham, Ch. 5

Steven Wagner, 'Mind-body interaction in Descartes,' in Voss

John Cottingham, 'Cartesian dualism,' Mind 1985

Geneviève Rodis-Lewis, 'Descartes and the unity of the human being' in OR

Marleen Rozemond, Descartes's Dualism, chs. 5 and 6

## **The Material World and Our Knowledge of It**

Meditations II (the wax), V and VI; Principles I.69-74, II.1-4

Williams, Chs. 8 and 9; Cottingham, Ch. 4 and 6

Garber, Daniel, Descartes' Metaphysical Physics (University of Chicago, 1992)

Daniel Garber, 'Descartes' method and the role of experiment' in OR

Gary Hatfield, 'The senses and the fleshless eye,' (skimming §1) in Rorty

John Cottingham, 'Descartes, Sixth Meditation; The external world, 'Nature' and human nature' in Chappell