

**Philosophy 168**  
**Descartes**  
**Fall, 2016**

**Lecture:** 115 1006 Giedt, MW 4:10-6:00 P.M.

**Office:** 2298 Social Science and Humanities

**Instructor:** Dr. G. J. Matthey

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**Office Hours:** T 2-4, F 2-3, and by appointment

**Text:** *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vol. II (Cambridge University Press)

**Web Site:** <http://philosophy.ucdavis.edu/matthey/phil68/index.html>

**Topic:** An intensive study of the philosophical and scientific works of Descartes, with the focus on the *Meditations on First Philosophy*. The major topics will be Descartes's metaphysical, epistemological, and scientific doctrines and arguments.

**Final Examination:** Thursday, December 8, 8:00-10:00 A.M.

### GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on the following considerations: Final examination (40%) and two five-page papers (30% each). The final will be in-class with short-answer questions. The paper will involve textual analysis on assigned topics. Examinations must be taken, and the paper turned in, at the scheduled time, unless prior authorization for another time is given. Unauthorized late papers will be penalized one quantum of a letter grade (e.g., from A- to B+) each two working days after the time due has passed. **The final and the paper must be completed in order for the course to be passed.**

### COURTESY POLICY

During class, cell phones must be turned off and not be used for any communication, including text-messages, checking to see who has called you, etc. If you have special circumstances which require the use of a cell phone during any class or series of classes, you must obtain permission from the instructor.