

## Reading Assignment 14: Cartesian Epistemology

---

### ASSIGNED READING

Descartes

- *Rules for Direction of the Mind*. Rule 4. Lines 371-374. In R. Descartes. *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Ed. by J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, and D. Murdoch. Vol. 1. Cambridge University Press, 1984. Vol. 1.
- *Principles*. Part I. Articles 1-9 and 71-74. In Descartes, *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Vol. 1. Pages 193-195 and 218-222
- *Discourse on method*. Part IV. In Descartes, *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Vol. 1. Pages 126-132.

### DUE DATE

Please bring a typed, hard copy of your answers to class on Thursday, February 23rd, 2017.

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Answer all three questions below. Together, your answers should not be longer than a single typed page. Remember to provide page numbers indicating which passages you are paraphrasing.

### QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, describe what Descartes means by a "method" in his *Rules for Direction of the Mind*.
2. In Part IV of his *Discourse on Method*, Descartes outlines a multi-step process for casting doubts on his beliefs. In no more than a paragraph, summarize each step of the doubting process. Although you are not required to do so, you might enjoy rereading Descartes' first meditation and comparing the order in which he raises doubts there.
3. In *Principles of Philosophy*, Descartes summarizes several sources of erroneous beliefs. Describe three sources, and give your own (concrete) example of each type.