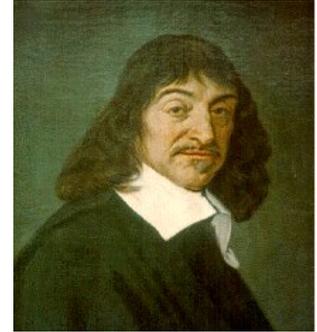


## God and Philosophy (SCAR 2LL3) – Fall 2021

### TEXT SUMMARY 1

**Assignment due to the Avenue assignment folder by September 22, 12 p.m. (Toronto time), from students with last names beginning in A–L**



Text Summary assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular week, in advance of listening to the lecture for that week, in which I go over that reading selection, offering you a chance to re-read and refine your understanding as you follow along with the lecture. For this reason, this assignment must be submitted by September 22, prior to listening to Lecture 2, which will be released on that day. If you are unable to complete this assignment for September 22, you may choose to complete Text Summary 2 for September 29 (in advance of receiving Lecture 3) instead.

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1.  
Before beginning this writing assignment, please read:

- Descartes, *Meditations* 1 and 2

(Be sure to always use the print editions selected for this course, i.e., in this case: [René Descartes, \*Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy\*, trans. Donald A. Cress \(Hackett\). ISBN 978-0872204201](#), available for purchase at the Campus Store.

- Hugo Bedau, *Thinking and Writing About Philosophy*, 2nd ed., pp. 7–10 top [coursepack], on writing summaries to understand reading.
- Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, 3rd ed. [purchase book/consult eReserves copy (via Avenue)], pp. 17–22, on quoting, especially item (f) on p. 21, on “reasons to quote a source directly.”

You might also find it helpful to have a look at:

- *They Say/I Say* [coursepack], pp. 38–40, on “signal verbs”

2.  
Please prepare a written summary (1–1.5 pages long, approximately 500 words) of:

Descartes, Meditation 2, from the beginning (AT 23) up until the paragraph ending “...a thinking thing” (AT 27)

### Detailed Instructions:

The summary should lay out what the text says, in roughly the order in which it is said, but with a focus on the aspects that you think are most important or interesting. Given the brevity of the assignment, this means that there are some aspects you will want to discuss in some detail, others you will choose to mention briefly, and still others that you won’t want to mention at all.

*continued on next page*

Your summary should highlight key concepts and describe the main argument(s). (Please draw on the explanation of this on the handout “Describing Arguments,” which we will also discuss at the September 16 tutorial meeting.)

Your observations about the text should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on; for this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references, as in this sample sentence:

Descartes claims that the discipline of theology is of limited value for getting “to heaven” (AT 28).

As explained in Lecture 1, for your writing on Descartes, your parenthetical references should be not to the regular page numbers in the book, but to the marginal “Adam-Tannery” page numbers (see “Note on the Translation” at the beginning of the book) using the “AT” abbreviation, as in the example sentence above.

Please include in your summary at least one quoted phrase (e.g., embedded into a sentence of your own) that helps you convey a point more effectively or vividly (see e.g., the list of reasons to quote in Harvey, p. 21 item (f)). Since this summary is short, quote only a phrase or a short sentence at a time, and be sure to make clear in your own words what the quoted phrase/sentence is supposed to illustrate. (You can use Skill-Building Exercise 2, which will be made available to you as of September 16, to practice this skill.)

Please print your assignment to PDF, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font, and with no cover sheet. Please write your name and “Text Summary 1” at the top, and indicate the total word count at the end.

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the summary assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what it says, and doing it will help you get the most out of lecture and tutorial this week. The assignment is not evaluated for whether it demonstrates a good understanding of the reading, but for evidence of your having worked in detail to understand the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our discussions, and with successive re-readings.

**Plagiarism Warning:** This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on Descartes’s *Meditations*, aided by the guidance you have received in course materials, the online tutorial, and by consulting the instructor: I am always available to discuss the questions you encounter as you read and re-read the texts for this class. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you consult outside sources in order to complete this assignment. Please remember that unacknowledged use of such sources constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the university’s [Academic Integrity policy](#).

*Please keep a copy of your summary to refer to in our online discussions of Descartes.*

***posted September 6, 2021***