

PHILOSOPHY 105: THE EMPIRICISTS
Winter 2006

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Course Description

This course focuses on the development of British Empiricism through the works of John Locke (1632-1704), George Berkeley (1685-1753), and David Hume (1711-1776). Rejecting the tradition of Aristotelian Scholasticism and the innatism of the Rationalist René Descartes (1596-1650), Locke held that all ideas are ultimately derived from experience, and that our knowledge extends no further than those ideas. In addition, Locke contributed to our understanding of difficult metaphysical issues, including (i) free will, (ii) the nature of substance, and (iii) personal identity. Berkeley, claiming that Locke's metaphysics leads to an unacceptable skepticism about the existence and nature of sensible things, attempted to prove that there is no such thing as material substance, and that the only things that exist are minds (including God) and ideas. Hume advocated a scientific attitude to understanding the human mind, which led him to new and shocking doctrines concerning (i)-(iii) and to a form of skepticism that Berkeley would have found repugnant. Understanding British Empiricism is one of the keys to understanding the metaphysics and epistemology of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).
[Prerequisites: Upper Division Status, at least one philosophy course recommended.]

Course Texts

EHU: John Locke. 1689-90. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*.
PHK: George Berkeley. 1710. *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*.
3D: George Berkeley. 1713. *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*.
THN: David Hume. 1739-40. *A Treatise of Human Nature*.
1E: David Hume. 1748. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.

All these texts are required and may be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore. These texts have also been placed on Course Reserve at Geisel Library.

I have made available three short commentaries, each recommended, none required:

Nicholas Jolley. 1999. *Locke: His Philosophical Thought*. Oxford University Press.
Robert Fogelin. 2001. *Berkeley and the Principles of Human Knowledge*. Routledge.
Harold Noonan. 1998. *Hume on Knowledge*. Routledge.

Note on Secondary Sources

The Jolley, Fogelin, and Noonan are designed to help you think critically about the primary sources and course lectures. Be aware that some of what you will hear in lecture contradicts some (at times, much) of what is written in these books. So you should not treat these secondary sources (or any others you may come across) as substitutes for the course lectures. Note that you will **not** be examined on the secondary source material, but you **will** be examined on the primary sources and on the lectures.

Course Schedule

January 10: Introduction: Locke's intellectual antecedents

January 12: Locke's Arguments Against Innate Principles and Ideas

Reading: **EHU**, Epistle to the Reader, I.1-2 and I.4

January 17: Locke's Way of Ideas

Reading: **EHU**, II.1-7, II.9-12, II.29, III.1-3, and IV.7.9

January 19: Locke on Primary and Secondary Qualities

Reading: **EHU**, II.8

January 24: Locke on Cause, Power, and Liberty

Reading: **EHU**, II.21 and II.26.1-2

January 26: Locke on Substances, *Substratum*, and the Ideas thereof

Reading: **EHU**, II.12.6, II.13.17-20, II.23, III.6, and III.10.17-21

January 31: Locke on Personal Identity

Reading: **EHU**, II.27

February 2: Locke on Knowledge, God, and the External World

Reading: **EHU**, IV.1-4 and IV.9-11

February 7: Berkeley's Metaphysics

Reading: **PHK**, Preface and 1-33

3D, Preface

Note: **FIRST PAPER DUE**

February 9: Berkeley's Defense of Immaterialism

Reading: **3D**, I and II (pp. 94-96)

February 14: Berkeley on Knowledge, God, and Other Minds

Reading: **3D**, II (pp. 96-100)

February 16: Berkeley's (Further) Arguments Against Materialism
Reading: 3D, II (pp. 100-110)

February 21: Berkeley's Replies to Objections to Immaterialism
Reading: PHK, 34-84
3D, III

February 23: Consequences of Berkeley's Immaterialism
Reading: PHK, 85-156

February 28: Hume's Way of Ideas
Reading: 1E, 1-3
THN, Abstract (pp. 407-417) and I.1
*Note: **SECOND PAPER DUE***

March 2: Hume on Induction
Reading: 1E, 4-5
THN, I.3.1-10

March 7: Hume on Power (Necessary Connection)
Reading: 1E, 7
THN, I.3.14

March 9: Hume on Liberty and Necessity
Reading: 1E, 8
THN, II.3.1-3

March 14: Hume on Personal Identity and Immaterial Substance
Reading: THN, I.4.5-6 and Appendix (pp. 396-401)

March 16: Hume on Skepticism
Reading: 1E, 12
THN, I.4.1-4 and I.4.7

*March 24: **FINAL EXAMINATION (11:30am-2:30pm)***

Course Requirements

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| * One medium paper (7-8 pages) on Locke: | 25% | due February 7 |
| * One medium paper (7-8 pages) on Berkeley: | 25% | due February 28 |
| * One final examination (cumulative): | 50% | March 24 |

Regular attendance and doing the required reading ahead of lectures are absolutely critical. Your understanding of the material will be greatly enhanced by attending lectures, and your understanding of the lectures will be greatly enhanced by reading the material.

Make-up examinations and paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence indicative of a valid excuse in a timely manner. [Note that computer or printer failure does **not** usually constitute a valid excuse, so be sure to take all necessary precautions to safeguard your coursework.] If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension or make-up either at that time or later in the quarter, bring it to my attention as soon as possible (e.g., if you are going to be out of town for a legitimate purpose, such as a university-sponsored concert performance, athletic event, conference, or the equivalent). Unexcused late papers and unexcused missed examinations will receive a grade of **F**.

Additional Notes

- * If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.
- * The academic honor code must be observed in this course.
- * The policies stated above are subject to change.