

**PHILOSOPHY 105: THE EMPIRICISTS**  
**Winter 2010**  
**Second Paper Assignment**

**Hard Copy: Due at the beginning of lecture (9:30am) on February 23, 2010**

The paper must be **typed, double-spaced**, with **1 inch margins, 12 point font**, and **no longer than 2500 words**. Please put your **name** and **word count** on a **separate** title page and do **not** put your name anywhere else (this is to facilitate blind grading). The pages must be stapled together (no covers please). *Papers that do not meet these requirements will be read and marked, but will receive a grade of F.*

**Turnitin.com Submission: Due before 8am on February 23, 2010**

The electronic version of your paper must be *identical* to the hard copy of your paper. The electronic version must be uploaded to Turnitin.com **before 8am** on the day the hard copy is due. Instructions for how to upload your paper may be found at

[http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii\\_student\\_qs.pdf](http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_qs.pdf)

In order to upload your paper, you will need the Class ID Number and Enrollment Password:

Class ID Number: 3091620

Enrollment Password: freewill

**Topic**

“It is indeed an opinion strangely prevailing amongst men, that houses, mountains, rivers, and in a word all sensible objects have an existence natural or real, distinct from their being perceived by the understanding. But with how great an assurance and acquiescence soever this principle may be entertained in the world; yet whoever shall find in his heart to call it in question, may, if I mistake not, perceive it to involve a manifest contradiction.” Berkeley, *Principles* 4.

Please answer *both* parts of the question:

1. Explain as fully as you can Berkeley’s reasons for thinking that the second sentence of this passage is true. That is, explain why Berkeley thinks (A) that it is impossible for sensible objects (such as houses, mountains, and rivers) to exist unperceived. Would Locke find Berkeley’s reasons for (A) persuasive? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Does Berkeley consider any reasons for thinking that (A) is false, i.e., does he consider any reasons for thinking that sensible objects can exist unperceived? If so, what are they, and does Berkeley successfully refute them?