

PHILOSOPHY 105: THE EMPIRICISTS
Winter 2010

Professor: Samuel C. Rickless
Office: HSS 8009
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-1pm
Office Phone: 822-4910
E-mail: srickless@ucsd.edu

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 all but **1E** may be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore. These texts have also been placed on Course Reserve at Geisel Library.

1E has been ordered and I will let you know as soon as it comes in. You may of course purchase it separately. The ISBN is: 978-0198752486.

Course Schedule

January 5: Introduction: Locke's intellectual antecedents

January 7: Locke's Arguments Against Innate Principles and Ideas

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

January 12: Locke's Way of Ideas

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

January 14: Locke on Primary and Secondary Qualities

Reading: **EHU**, II.8

January 19: Locke on Cause, Power, and Liberty

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

January 21: 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 26: Locke on Personal Identity

Reading: **EHU**, II.27

January 28: Locke on Knowledge, God, and the External World

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

February 2: Berkeley's Metaphysics

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

3D, Preface

Note: **FIRST PAPER DUE**

February 4: Berkeley's Defense of Immaterialism

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

February 9: Berkeley on Knowledge, God, and Other Minds

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

February 11: Berkeley's (Further) Arguments Against Materialism

Reading: **3D**, II (pp. 100-110)

February 16: Berkeley's Replies to Objections to Immaterialism

Reading: **PHK**, 34-84

3D, III

February 18: Consequences of Berkeley's Immaterialism
Reading: **PHK**, 85-156

February 23: Hume's Way of Ideas
Reading: **1E**, 1-3
THN, Abstract (pp. 407-417) and I.1
Note: **SECOND PAPER DUE**

February 25: Hume on Induction
Reading: **1E**, 4-5
THN, I.3.1-10

March 2: Hume on Power (Necessary Connection)
Reading: **1E**, 7
THN, I.3.14

March 4: Hume on Liberty and Necessity
Reading: **1E**, 8
THN, II.3.1-3

March 9: Hume on Personal Identity and Immaterial Substance
Reading: **THN**, I.4.5-6 and Appendix (pp. 396-401)

March 11: Hume on Skepticism
Reading: **1E**, 12
THN, I.4.1-4 and I.4.7

March 16: **FINAL EXAMINATION (8am-11am)**

Course Requirements

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------|
| * One medium paper (7-8 pages) on Locke: | 25% | due February 2 |
| * One medium paper (7-8 pages) on Berkeley: | 25% | due February 23 |
| * One final examination (cumulative): | 50% | March 16 |

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. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes (even a little bit) will receive an automatic **F** for the course and will be referred to the Academic Integrity Coordinator for disciplinary proceedings that may lead to suspension or expulsion.
- * The policies stated above are subject to change.