

PHILOSOPHY 105: THE EMPIRICISTS
Fall 2013

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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*.

[Note: **PHK** and **3D** are packaged together in the same volume.]

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.

Please bring the relevant texts to lecture. In your papers, please quote from the assigned texts and no others.

Course Schedule

September 27: Introduction: Locke's intellectual antecedents

September 30: Locke's Arguments Against Innate Speculative Principles

Reading: EHU, Epistle to the Reader (pp. 6-14); Book I, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 43-65)

October 2: Locke's Arguments Against Innate Practical Principles and Innate Ideas

Reading: EHU, Book I, Chapters 3-4 (pp. 65-103)

October 4: Locke's Way of Ideas: Simple Ideas

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapters 1-7 (pp. 104-132)

October 7: Locke's Way of Ideas: Complex Ideas and Abstract Ideas

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapters 9-12 (pp. 143-166); Book III, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 402-408); Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 1-11 (pp. 409-414); Book IV, Chapter 7, Section 9 (pp. 595-596)

October 9: Locke on Primary and Secondary Qualities

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapter 8 (pp. 132-143)

October 11: Locke on Cause, Power, and Liberty – Part I

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapter 21, Sections 1-26 (pp. 233-247); Book II, Chapter 26, Sections 1-2 (pp. 324-325)

October 14: Locke on Cause, Power, and Liberty – Part II

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapter 21, Sections 27-72 (pp. 247-286)

October 16: Locke on Substances, *Substratum*, and the Ideas thereof

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapter 12, Section 6 (pp. 165-166); Book II, Chapter 13, Sections 17-20 (pp. 174-175); Book II, Chapter 23 (pp. 295-317)

October 18: Locke on Real Essence and Nominal Essence

Reading: EHU, Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 12-20 (pp. 414-420); Book III, Chapter 6 (pp. 438-471); Book III, Chapter 10, Sections 17-21 (pp. 499-503)

October 21: Locke on Personal Identity

Reading: EHU, Book II, Chapter 27 (pp. 328-348)

October 23: Locke on Knowledge, God, and the External World

Reading: EHU, Book IV, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 525-573)

October 25: Locke on Knowledge of Oneself, God, and the External World

Reading: Book IV, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 618-639)

October 28: Berkeley's Attack on Abstract Ideas and the 1710 Arguments for Idealism
Reading: PHK, Preface, Introduction (the whole thing), and Sections 1-7, 85-91, 135-145; 3D, Preface. (pp. 6-27, 61-64, 85-89, 103-105)

Note: FIRST ESSAY DUE

October 30: Berkeley's Immaterialism
Reading: PHK, Sections 8-21 (pp. 27-33)

November 1: Berkeley's Master Argument
Reading: PHK, Sections 22-24; 3D, First Dialogue (excerpt, from "But (to pass by..." to "I profess I know not what to think") (pp. 33-34, 139-140)

November 4: Berkeley's Argument(s) for the Existence of God
Reading: PHK, Sections 25-33, 146-149; 3D, Second Dialogue (excerpt) (pp. 34-37, 89-91, 148-153)

November 6: Berkeley's 1713 Defense of Idealism
Reading: 3D, First Dialogue (the whole thing) (pp. 107-147)

November 8: Berkeley's Replies to Objections in the Principles
Reading: PHK, Sections 34-84 (pp. 37-61)

November 13: Berkeley's Replies to Objections in the Three Dialogues
Reading: 3D, Third Dialogue (the whole thing) (pp. 169-208)

November 15: Hume's Way of Ideas
Reading: 1E, Sections 1-3 (pp. 1-15)
THN, Introduction (pp. 3-6), Abstract (pp. 407-417) and Book I, Part 1 (pp. 7-22)

November 18: Hume on Induction – Part I
Reading: 1E, Section 4 (pp. 15-25)
THN, Book I, Part 3, Sections 1-10 (pp. 50-85)
Note: SECOND ESSAY DUE

November 20: Hume on Induction – Part II
Reading: 1E, Section 5 (pp. 25-37)
THN, Book I, Part 3, Sections 1-10 (pp. 50-85) – same as 11/18

November 22: Hume on Necessary Connection
Reading: 1E, Section 7 (pp. 39-53)
THN, Book I, Part 3, Section 14 (pp. 105-116)

November 25: Hume on Liberty and Necessity
Reading: 1E, Section 8 (pp. 53-69)
THN, Book II, Part 3, Sections 1-3 (pp. 257-268)

November 27: Review Session (Day Before Thanksgiving)

Reading: Nothing new.

December 2: Hume on Personal Identity and Immaterial Substance

Reading: THN, Book I, Part 4, Sections 5-6 (pp. 152-171)

December 4: Hume's Recantation

Reading: THN, Appendix (pp. 396-401)

December 6: Hume on Skepticism

Reading: 1E, Section 12 (pp. 102-114)

THN, Book I, Part 4, Sections 1-4 (pp. 121-152) and Book I, Part 4, Section 7 (pp. 171-178).

December 13: FINAL EXAMINATION, ESSAY PORTION TAKE HOME (8-11am)

Course Requirements

- * One short essay, due October 28 (<1600 words): 20%
- * One medium essay, due November 18 (<2300 words): 30%
- * One final examination (<3000 word take home essay + in class test): 50%

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. 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.