

## Philosophy 108: The Empiricists

Winter 2009

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Solis 110

MWF 11:00-11:50

### 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 scholastic Aristotelianism and the innatism of 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, such as freedom of the will, the nature of substance, and personal identity. Berkeley, claiming that Locke's metaphysics promoted 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 approach to the study of human beings, which led him to radical new conclusions about what he called "moral subjects," 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).

**Prerequisite:** Upper-division standing; 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. They have also been placed on Course Reserve at Geisel Library.

### Course Requirements:

1. Midterm exam on Friday, February 6 (25%)

2. One 5-6 pp. paper due on February 25 (topics will be handed out one week in advance) (25%)
3. Final exam, culmulative but weighted toward Hume (50%)
  - Regular attendance and completion of the required reading ahead of lectures are critical. Engagement with the course presupposes that you have done the assigned reading and are prepared to discuss it in class.
  - Make-up examinations and paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence 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 work. If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension or make-up, 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 missed examinations will receive a grade of F. Unexcused late papers will be penalized one +/- letter grade per day.
  - If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.
  - Students should familiarize themselves with the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: <http://www.senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14>. There is a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism in this class. Anyone who is found to plagiarize work will receive an automatic F for the course. Additional disciplinary penalties may be assigned by the UCSD administration. Receipt of this syllabus constitutes an acknowledgement that you are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.

### Schedule of Classes:

#### Week 1

M	1/5	Introduction
W	1/7	Background to Locke Reading: Rutherford, "Innovation and Orthodoxy in Early Modern Philosophy" (on class website)
F	1/9	Locke's Project Reading: <b>EHU</b> , "Epistle to the Reader"; I.1 and IV.21

#### Week 2

M	1/12	Against Innate Principles and Ideas Reading: <b>EHU</b> , I.2-4
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W	1/14	Locke's Way of Ideas Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.1-7, 9-12; Correspondence with Stillingfleet, pp. 339-40
F	1/16	Locke's Way of Ideas Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.29, III.1-3, IV.7
Week 3		
M	1/19	MLK Day – No class
W	1/21	Primary and Secondary Qualities Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.8
F	1/23	Substance, Mind and Body Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.13, II.23, III.6. IV.6; Correspondence with Stillingfleet, pp. 341-54
Week 4		
M	1/26	Cause, Power and Liberty Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.21, II.26.1-2
W	1/28	Freedom, Morality and Happiness Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.20, II. 28
F	1/30	Personal Identity Reading: <b>EHU</b> , II.27
Week 5		
M	2/2	Knowledge, God, and the External World Reading: <b>EHU</b> , IV.1-4 and IV.9-11
W	2/4	Locke review
F	2/6	Midterm Exam
Week 6		
M	2/9	Berkeley's Metaphysics Reading: <b>PHK</b> , Introduction and 1-33; <b>3D</b> , Preface
W	2/11	Defense of Immaterialism Reading: <b>3D</b> , I
F	2/13	Defense of Immaterialism Reading: <b>3D</b> , II
Week 7		
M	2/16	President's Day – No class
W	2/18	Berkeley's Replies to Objections to Immaterialism Reading: <b>PHK</b> , 34-84; <b>3D</b> , III
F	2/20	Consequences of Berkeley's Immaterialism Reading: <b>PHK</b> , 85-156
Week 8		
M	2/23	Hume's "Science of Man" Reading: <b>THN</b> , Introduction; <b>1E</b> , 1-3

W 2/25 The "Copy Principle"  
Reading: **THN**, I.1.1-7 and Abstract (pp. 407-417)  
F 2/27 Problem of Induction  
Reading: **1E**, 4-6

Week 9

M 3/2 Causation and Necessary Connection  
Reading: **1E**, 7  
W 3/4 "Rules by which to Judge of Causes and Effects"  
Reading: **THN**, I.3.14-15  
F 3/6 Liberty and Necessity  
Reading: **1E**, 8; **THN**, II.3.1-3

Week 10

M 3/9 Personal Identity and Immaterial Substance  
Reading: **THN**, I.4.5-6 and Appendix (pp. 396-401)  
W 3/11 Skepticism and Naturalism  
Reading: **1E**, 12; **THN**, I.4.1-4 and I.4.7  
F 3/13 Summing up

Final Exam: Monday, 3/16, 11:30-2:30