

PHIL 201A: SYLLABUS

BERKELEY, HUME, and SHEPHERD

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Course Description

The plan is to work through two books by Mary Shepherd (1777-1847): [*An Essay Upon the Relation of Cause and Effect, Controverting the Doctrine of Mr. Hume, Concerning the Nature of that Relation; with Observations upon the Opinions of Dr. Brown and Mr. Lawrence, connected with the same Subject*](#) (1824), and [*Essays on the Perception of an External Universe, and Other Subjects connected with the Doctrine of Causation*](#) (1827).

Shepherd's first book criticizes Hume's theory of causation, as it appears both in the first Book of *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739) and in three sections of *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1748), and also criticizes remarks in support of Hume's theory that appeared in Thomas Brown's *Observations on the Nature and Tendency of the Doctrine of Mr. Hume, Concerning the Relation of Cause and Effect* (1805) and in William Lawrence's *Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man* (1819). In a positive vein, she argues that reason provides us with knowledge that everything that begins to exist must have a cause, that no object can begin its own existence, and that similar causes necessarily produce similar effects.

Shepherd's second book consists of two parts, the first of which is *An Essay on the Academical or Sceptical Philosophy as Applied by Mr. Hume to the Perception of External Existence*, and the second of which is composed of fourteen essays on various subjects, including criticisms of views expounded by George Berkeley, Dugald Stewart, David Hume, and Thomas Reid. In this book, Shepherd argues that reason provides us with sufficient evidence to conclude that there are continuously existing material objects external to and independent of our minds. This argument relies on some of the conclusions derived in her first book.

We will aim to spend half of the seminar reconstructing the views and arguments of Berkeley and Hume that are relevant to Shepherd's discussion of them in her books. In the other half of the seminar, we will work through Shepherd's two books and some relevant secondary literature.

Course Texts

There are five required texts for the course.

David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, edited by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton.
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Eric Steinberg.
Indianapolis: Hackett, 1977.

George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge* and *Three Dialogues*, edited by Roger Woolhouse. London: Penguin Books, 1988.

You really need to get the Norton and Norton edition of Hume. Norton and Norton number the paragraphs in each section of the *Treatise*, and this is very useful. The old Selby-Bigge edition, which you may have in your possession, is not as helpful. Note, though, that secondary literature on Hume often cites the Selby-Bigge edition, which was the standard edition for many years, and recent secondary literature cites both editions.

There is nothing special about the Woolhouse edition of Berkeley's *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (1710) and *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* (1713). It's an inexpensive book that contains Berkeley's two major works. If you have a different edition of these works, we won't have problems with the *Principles*, but we will have difficulty with the *Dialogues*. It is easy to refer to the *Principles* by section number. No matter your edition, the section number is easy to find. But if we are sitting around the table and someone wants to refer to a particular passage in the *Three Dialogues*, it will be difficult to get everyone on the same page unless everyone is looking at the same edition. (The standard edition of Berkeley's Works, by Luce and Jessop, which is the standard way to cite the *Three Dialogues*, is not helpful, because it is out of print. Our department library, however, does have a copy. You are welcome to look at the Luce and Jessop, of course, but please do not remove the physical copies of Berkeley's Works from the department library.) So I think it would help move discussion along if we all have a copy of the Woolhouse edition to bring to seminar when we are discussing Berkeley.

All three books have been ordered by the UC San Diego bookstore and should be available for purchase there.

There is no inexpensive edition of Shepherd's books, though Antonia LoLordo (at UVA) has an edition of Shepherd's works under contract with Oxford University Press (so look for it when it comes out!). Jennifer McRobert has an edition of *The Philosophical Works of Mary Shepherd* (Thoemmes Press, 2000), which will be borrowed from the UCSD library and made available to you in the philosophy department library. Again, please do not remove the physical copies from the department library.

Here are links to Shepherd's two books (also embedded in the Course Description above):

https://books.google.com/books?id=EQBfAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

<https://books.google.com/books?id=NH3q6FDQffQC&printsec=frontcover&dq=essays+on+the+perception+of+an+external+universe&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjI4OzPsZDcAhULL3wKHXIVBzgQ6AEIJzAA#v=onepage&q=essays%20on%20the%20perception%20of%20an%20external%20universe&f=false>

Additional course materials are either easily found by Googling or through the UCSD Library website, or will be made available in the Content section of the TritonEd website for the Course.

Course Schedule

First Meeting (October 2)

Reading: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part 1, Sections 1-5; Book I, Part 3, Sections 2-7, 14-15

Second Meeting (October 9)

Reading: Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 4, 5, 7

Third Meeting (October 16)

Reading: Anscombe, G. E. M. 1974. ““Whatever has a Beginning of Existence must have a Cause”: Hume’s Argument Exposed”, *Analysis* 34: 145-151. (Google or UCSD Library Website)

Anscombe, G. E. M. 1975. “Times, Beginnings and Causes”, *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 253-270 (TritonEd Website)

Allison, Henry. 2008. ““Whatever Begins to Exist Must Have a Cause of Existence”: Hume’s Analysis and Kant’s Response”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 76: 525-546. (Google or UCSD Library Website)

Fourth Meeting (October 23)

Reading: Shepherd, *An Essay Upon the Relation of Cause and Effect*, pp. 1-135, Preface, Chapters 1-3

Fifth Meeting (October 30)

Reading: Bolton, Martha. 2010. “Causality and Causal Induction: The Necessitarian Theory of Lady Mary Shepherd”, in *Causation in Modern Philosophy*, K. Allen and T. Stoneham (eds.), 242-261. (TritonEd Website)

Fantl, Jeremy. 2016. “Mary Shepherd on Causal Necessity”, *Metaphysica* 17: 87-108. (TritonEd Website)

Bolton, Martha. 2017. “Mary Shepherd”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, section 2.1 (Google)

Sixth Meeting (November 6)

Reading: Berkeley, *Principles*, Introduction and 1-33, and 38

Rickless, Samuel C. 2013. *Berkeley’s Argument for Idealism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3 (TritonEd Website)

Seventh Meeting (November 13)

Reading: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, First Dialogue

Rickless, Samuel C. 2013. *Berkeley’s Argument for Idealism*, Chapter 4 and Conclusion (TritonEd Website)

Eighth Meeting (November 20)

Reading: Shepherd, *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe*, Part I

Bolton, Martha. 2017. "Mary Shepherd", *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, sections 2.2, 3 and 5.

Ninth Meeting (November 27)

Reading: Shepherd, *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe*, Part II, Essays 1-2 and 6

Atherton, Margaret. 1996. "Lady Mary Shepherd's Case Against Berkeley", *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 4: 348-366. (Google or UCSD Library Website)

Rickless, Samuel C. 2018. "Is Shepherd's Pen Mightier Than Berkeley's Word?" *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 26: 317-330. (Google or UCSD Library Website)

Tenth Meeting (December 4)

Boyle, Deborah. "Mary Shepherd on Mind, Soul, and Self" (draft) (TritonEd Website)

TBD

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

- * 1 presentation : 10%
- * 5 short (800-1000 word) papers : 15%
- * 1 (2-3 page) prospectus for the final paper
- * 1 final paper (4500-6000 words) : 75%

* Each short paper (in PDF format) should be posted on the TritonEd Discussion Board by 5pm on the Monday immediately before the relevant Tuesday seminar.

* Each paper should focus on an aspect of the reading for the relevant week.

* No short paper should be on a topic covered by one of your presentations.

* All short papers should have been completed by the time the prospectus is handed in.

* A prospectus for the final paper should be e-mailed to me sometime before 5pm on Friday, November 30. It should include a brief description of the project for the final paper and a bibliography.

* The final paper should be emailed to me as a PDF by 5pm on Thursday, December 13. Late papers will not be accepted without a valid excuse communicated to me in a timely manner.

* Improvement counts in your favor if the relevant numerical calculations place you between grades at the end of the quarter.

Notes

* If accommodations are needed for any reason (disability, religious obligation, family obligation, and so on), please notify me as soon as possible.

* The Academic Honor Code must be observed in this course.

* The course units, requirements, and policies stated above are subject to change.