

PHILOSOPHY 308 A01
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. J.O. Young

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Texts: John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues*
David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*

These books are available for purchase in the University bookstore. However, they are also available online as follows:

Locke: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/LocHuma.html>

Hume: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4705>

Berkeley, *Principles*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4723>

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4724>

Course Objectives:

To provide students with a knowledge of the epistemological and metaphysical views of the principal members of the empiricist school; to provide students with an appreciation of the continuing philosophical significance of these views; to cultivate philosophical acuity.

Grading:

Students will write two essays: one essay on either Locke or Berkeley and one essay on Hume. Students will be provided with suggested essay topics. Each essay will be worth 40% of the course grade. In addition, students will write eight short quizzes. The five best scores on these quizzes will each be worth 4% of the final grade. These quizzes will be administered without notice and will be designed to ensure that students are attending classes and keeping up with assigned readings.

Four criteria will be used in assessing essays: (1) effective and correct use of the English language; (2) accurate presentation of the views of the philosophers discussed; (3) presentation of valid arguments; and (4) evidence of original thought. A first class

essay will be characterised by clear, grammatical prose and careful exegesis. It will display an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the positions discussed. It will state a thesis and provide valid arguments for it. A first class essay will also contain your own efforts to grapple with philosophical issues and to arrive at your own solutions. Students are discouraged from making extensive use of secondary sources. Their own reasoned reflections are more important than a survey of the extant literature.

After the deadlines, essays will be accepted without penalty for seven days. If papers are submitted after the deadline, without a good reason, the instructor will not feel under an obligation to provide extensive written comments on them. No papers will be accepted more than seven days after the deadline. Exceptions will be made only in cases of **properly documented** illness or personal crisis. Requests for exceptions must be received in writing and **no more than seven days after the deadline**.

Students will receive a final grade out of 100 points. Numbers will be converted to a letter grade in accordance with the following scale: 90-100=A+; 85-89=A; 80-84=A-; 77-79=B+; 73-76=B; 70-72=B-; 65-69=C+; 60-64=C; 50-59= D; 0-49=F. Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and are eligible to receive a passing final grade:

- *Essay 1*
- *Essay 2*
- *Four of the eight surprise quizzes*

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. An N is a failing grade, and it factors into a student's GPA as O. The maximum percentage that can accompany an N on a student's transcript is 49

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will not be tolerated. Please the University Calendar for a description of plagiarism. The minimum penalty is a failing grade on the assignment produced by plagiarism. Serious or repeated plagiarism can result in failure of a course and even expulsion from the University.

Syllabus

Week One: 4 January

Topic: Introduction to empiricism

Readings: *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, Epistle to the Reader

Week Two: 8 and 11 January

Topic: Origin of ideas and critique of innate ideas
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. I, Ch. I, II and IV

Week Three: 15 and 18 January

Topic: Simple and complex ideas; primary and secondary qualities; space and time
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. I-IV, VIII, XII, XIII and XIV

Week Four: 22 and 25 January

Topic: Power; human freedom; substance
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XIII, XIV, Ch. XXI, §§ 1 - 50, XXIII

Week Five: 29 January and 1 February

Topic: Identity; types and extent of knowledge
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XXVII; Bk. IV, Ch. I – V, IX-XI

Week Six: 5 and 8 February

Topic: Critique of abstract general ideas; immaterialism
Readings: Berkeley, *Principles*

Week Seven: Reading Break

Week Eight: 19 and 22 February

Topic: Berkeley on God and finite souls
Readings: *Three Dialogues*
Assignment: First essay due 11:15 a.m., 19 February

Week Nine: 26 February and 1 March

Topic: Introduction to Hume; origins of ideas; space and time
Readings: *Treatise of Human Nature*, Introduction, Bk. I

Week Ten: 5 and 8 March

Topic: Existence, external existence, causality
Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. II

Week Eleven: 12 and 15 March

Topic: Causality continued; the idea of necessary connection
Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. III

Week Twelve: 19 and 22 March

Topic: Continuation of previous week; Scepticism
Readings: *Treatise*, *Treatise*, Bk. III; *Treatise*, Bk. IV, §§ 1-4

Week Thirteen: 26 March and 29 March

Topic: The nature of the soul
Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. I, Pt. IV, §§ 5-7

Week Fourteen: 2 and 5 April

Topic: Liberty and Necessity; Legacy of empiricism
Readings: Bk. II, Pt. III, §§ I-II
Assignment: Second essay due 11:15 a.m., 6 April

N.B.: This syllabus is tentative, and intended only to give students a rough guide to readings, dates and topics. Dates may be changed.