

PHILOSOPHY 308 A01
Spring 2021

- Instructor:** Dr. J.O. Young
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- Telephone:** 250-721-7509
- E-mail:** joy@uvic.ca
- Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment; office hours will be held via Zoom.
- 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://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/10615>

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 Outline:

This course will be offered synchronously. Meetings will be Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time via Zoom.

The details are as follows:

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/88166660472?pwd=T0g2dDFsQkltbmVQWFozbkplRUdqUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 6666 0472

Password: 593954

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,88166660472#,,,0#,,593954# Canada

+17789072071,,88166660472#,,,0#,,593954# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada
Meeting ID: 881 6666 0472
Password: 593954
Find your local number: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/kc8o8fXOvT>

The objects of this course are 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 45% of the course grade. In addition, students will write eight short quizzes. The five best scores on these quizzes will each be worth 2% 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. If students miss a quiz for a good reason, they may arrange to write a makeup quiz.

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

Academic integrity

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are serious academic offences and will not be tolerated. Please see University Calendar for the regulations on academic integrity: <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/>. The minimum penalty for violation of the policy is a failing grade on a plagiarised assignment. Serious or repeated plagiarism can result in failure of a course and even suspension from the University. A good way to avoid plagiarism is to take the instructor’s advice and avoid secondary sources altogether.

Syllabus

Week One: 11 and 14 January

Topic: Introduction to empiricism

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

Week Two: 18 and 21 January

Topic: Origin of ideas and critique of innate ideas

Readings: *Essay*, Bk. I, Ch. I, II and IV

Week Three: 25 and 28 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: 1 and 4 February

Topic: Power; human freedom; substance

Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XIII, XIV, Ch. XXI, §§ 1 - 50, XXIII

Week Five: 8 and 11 February

Topic: Identity; types and extent of knowledge

Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XXVII; Bk. IV, Ch. I – V, IX-XI

Reading break

Week Six: 22 and 25 February

Topic: Critique of abstract general ideas; immaterialism

Readings: Berkeley, *Principles*

Assignment: First essay due 2:15 p.m. 22 February

Week Eight: 1 and 4 March

Topic: Berkeley on God and finite souls

Readings: *Three Dialogues*

Week Nine: 8 and 11 March

Topic: Introduction to Hume; origins of ideas; space and time

Readings: *Treatise of Human Nature*, Introduction, Bk. I

Week Ten: 15 and 18 March

Topic: Existence, external existence, causality

Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. II

Week Eleven: 22 and 25 March

Topic: Causality continued; the idea of necessary connection

Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. III

Week Twelve: 29 and 1 April

Topic: Continuation of previous week; Scepticism

Readings: *Treatise*, *Treatise*, Bk. III; *Treatise*, Bk. IV, §§ 1-4

Week Thirteen: 9 April

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

Week Fourteen: 12 April

Topic: Liberty and Necessity
Readings: Bk. II, Pt. III, §§ I-II
Assignment: Second essay due 4 p.m., 15 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.