

Topics in Early Modern Philosophy: British Empiricism

Philosophy 509
Dr. Brandon C. Look
Spring 2009

Meeting Place: BH 303
Time: TR 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m.
Office Hours: T 3:30-5:00p.m.
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Course website: <http://www.uky.edu/~look/509EmpiricismA.htm>

Course Description:

The focus of this course will be the philosophy of the central figures of the 17th- and 18th-century empiricist tradition: John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume, and Thomas Reid. We shall explore the main works of these philosophers both systematically and diachronically and focus on the central themes common to them: the origin, nature, and scope of human knowledge; the relation of the self to the world; the relation of God to the world; the philosophical underpinnings of the emerging 'new science'; and the practice of philosophy.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to write three essays of approximately 5-7 pages. While I shall provide topics for these essays, students may, after having consulted with me, write on some other relevant topic that they find more interesting. All graduate students, however, have the option of writing one longer paper of approximately 18-25 pages in length. Due-dates for these papers can be found in the schedule below.

Format and Participation:

This course will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. I expect all students to have read the assigned material prior to class, to have thought about it, and to come to class prepared to discuss it. In cases where a student's grade may be on the borderline, I will reward those students who contributed to the class.

Grades:

Papers will be given letter grades (A, A-, B+, etc.), which have the usual numerical value (A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, etc.). Each paper will count equally to the final grade, which will be an average of the three papers. Final grades will be the following: A = 3.50-4.0; B = 2.50-3.49; C = 1.50-2.49; etc. (There are no +/- final grades for this course.)

Incompletes:

No incompletes will be given in this course.

Attendance:

While I shall not take attendance, I do *expect* students to attend all classes. I reserve the right to lower a student's final grade if he or she does not attend classes regularly.

Plagiarism:

DON'T DO IT! Be a philosopher: think for yourself. If you are found to have plagiarized, you will be punished according to UK's rules.

Required Texts:

- John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. P. Nidditch, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975.
- George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, ed. J. Dancy, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, eds. D. & M. Norton, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. T. Beauchamp, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.*
- David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, ed. R. Popkin, 2nd edition, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998.*
- Thomas Reid, *Inquiry and Essays*, eds. R. Beanblossom & K. Lehrer, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983.*

(*These books were originally ordered as "recommended". As a result, there may not be enough at the bookstores.)

Schedule:

- 1/15 Introduction/Class Mechanics
- 1/20 Locke, *Essay*, Epistle to the Reader; Book I.i (all); I.ii.1-9, 12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-22, 24, 27-28; I.iii.1-6, 9-14, 20, 22-24, 27; I.iv.1-10, 12, 14-15, 17-18, 20, 22-25.
- 1/22 Locke, *Essay*, Book II.i-ix (all).
- 1/27 Locke, *Essay*, Book II.x-xii (all); II.xiii.1-4, 11-20; II.xiv.1-3, 17, 24, 27, 30; II.xv (all); II.xvi.1-5, 8; II.xvii.1-5, 12-13, 22; II.xix.1; II.xx.1-6, 15, 18.
- 1/29 Locke, *Essay*, Book II.xxi.1-34, 41-42, 48-54, 71-73; II.xxii.1-5, 9, 11; II.xxiii-xxiv (all)
- 2/3 Locke, *Essay*, Book II.xxv-xxvii (all); II.xxviii.1-10, 15-16; II.xxix.1-5, 7-13, 16; II.xxx-xxxii (all).
- 2/5 Locke, *Essay*, Book III.i-iii (all); III.iv.1-7, 15, 17; III.v.1-5, 7-8, 12, 14, 16; III.vi.1-9, 12, 14-32, 35-40, 49-50; III.vii.1-2; III.vii (all).
- 2/10 Locke, *Essay*, Book III.ix.1-5, 11-13, 18; III.x.1-6, 12, 14-15, 17-20, 22, 34; III.xi.1, 8-17, 19-23, 26-27.
- 2/12 Locke, *Essay*, Book IV.i (all); IV.ii.1-9, 14-15; IV.iii (all); IV.iv.1-8, 10-12; IV.v.1-5, 9-10; IV.vi (all).
- 2/17 Locke, *Essay*, Book IV.vii.1-12, 14; IV.viii.1, 4, 7, 9; IV.ix-xii (all); IV.xiii.1-2; IV.xiv-xv (all).
- 2/19 No Class
- 2/24 Locke, *Essay*, Book IV.xvi.1, 3-11, 14; IV.xvii.1-6, 9-16, 24; IV.xviii (all); IV.xx.1-2, 6, 17; IV.xxi (all)
- 2/26 Berkeley, *Principles*, Preface and Introduction (pp. 87-102) **Paper 1 due**
- 3/3 Berkeley, *Principles*, Part I, §§1-33 (pp. 103-14)
- 3/5 Berkeley, *Principles*, Part I, §§34-84 (pp. 114-33)
- 3/10 Berkeley, *Principles*, Part I, §§85-134 (pp. 133-54)
- 3/12 Berkeley, *Principles*, Part I, §§ 135-56 (pp. 154-62)
- 3/17 Spring Break
- 3/19 Spring Break
- 3/24 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.1.1-7 (pp. 1-22); *Enquiry*, §§1-3 (pp. 87-107) **Paper 2 due**
- 3/26 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.2.1-6 (esp. 1.2.6) (pp. 23-49); *Enquiry*, §12, part 2 (pp. 204-07)
- 3/31 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.3.1-5 (pp. 50-61); *Enquiry*, §4 (pp. 108-18)
- 4/2 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.3.6-10 (pp. 61-85); *Enquiry*, §5 (pp. 119-30)
- 4/7 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.3.11-13 (pp. 86-104); *Enquiry*, §6 (pp. 131-33)
- 4/9 No Class
- 4/14 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.3.14-15 (pp. 105-20); *Enquiry*, §7 (pp. 134-47)
- 4/16 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.4.1-4 (pp. 121-52); *Enquiry*, §12, part 1 (pp. 199-203)
- 4/21 Hume, *Treatise*, 1.4.5-7 (esp. 1.4.6!) (pp. 152-78), and Appendix (pp. 398-41); *Enquiry*, §12, part 3 (pp. 207-11)

4/23 Reid, *Inquiry*, Ch. 1 (pp. 3-12); *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, Essay One (pp. 129-59)

4/28 Reid, *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, Essay 2, Chs. 5, 14, 17-20 (pp. 159-65, 175-206)

4/30 Reid, *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, Essay 3, Chs. 1-2, 4, 6 (pp. 206-18); *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, Essay 1, Chs. 1, 5-6 (pp. 299-313)

Paper 3 due

5/6 **Term Papers Due**