**The British Empiricists & Company[[1]](#footnote-1)**

PHIL 122

Spring 2021

Syllabus



**Important Information:**

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Professor: Jeffrey McDonough

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15 – 10:30, and by appoitment

E-mail: jkmcdon@fas.harvard.edu

Course Web Page: Canvass web site available through MyHarvard portal

Location: Online with Zoom:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/97082550032?pwd=ZWVTT2Z2YzU1MVk1eWpLNmM5QWM2dz09>

**Course Description:**

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were among the most exciting and revolutionary periods in the history of western philosophy. John Locke, George Berkeley and David Hume were three of the most prominent philosophers of the era and have traditionally been grouped together under the label “British Empiricists.” This undergraduate level course aims to provide an overview of British Empiricism in general while exploring in detail a number of central issues, arguments and controversies. Optional readings will place our three central figures in the larger context of early modern philosophy. Topics will include the theory of ideas, the nature of body, personal identity, human agency, skepticism, and naturalism. Students will emerge from the course with a foundational understanding of one of the most important periods in the history of western philosophy and will have the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, and analytic skills.

**Recommended Texts:**

Below I have listed recommended editions of our main texts. These are classic works in the history of philosophy, and you may want to own a paper copy. All recommended editions should be available through the COOP, <https://tinyurl.com/W21-PHIL-122-1>. Below each title, I have also provided links to stable, unedited on-line versions of the same text. These may take a little more work to keep track of, but if you do not wish to purchase books for this course, they will certainly do. Finally, I below each unedited on-line text, I have also listed a “student-friendly” on-line version edited by Jonathan Bennett all of which are available online for free.

• John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Peter Nidditch (New York: Penguin Books). ISBN-13: 9780198245957. Abbreviated below as *Essay*.

- Available from Project Gutenberg, (link is to Volume 1, other volumes similarly available):

 <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10615/10615-h/10615-h.htm>

- Available from Bennett’s Early Modern Texts, here:

<http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/locke>

• George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (Oxford Universaity Press). ISBN-13: 9780198751496. Abbreviated below as *Dialogues*.

- Available from Project Gutenberg, here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/4724/4724-h/4724-h.htm>

- Available from Bennett’s Early Modern Texts, here:

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1713.pdf>

• George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge,* ed. Jonathan Dancy (Oxford University Press). ISBN-13: 9780198751618. Abbreviated below as *Principles*.

- Available from Project Gutenberg, here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/4723/4723-h/4723-h.htm>

- Student friend edition from Bennett’s Early Modern Texts, here:

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1713.pdf>

• David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Tom Beauchamp (Oxford University Press). ISBN-13: 9780198752486. Abbreviated below as *Enquiry*.

- Available from Project Gutenberg, here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/9662/9662-h/9662-h.htm>

- Available from Bennett’s Early Modern Texts, here:

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1748.pdf>

• David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, ed. David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton (Oxford University Press). ISBN-13: 9780198751724. Abbreviated below as *Treatise*.

- Available from Project Gutenberg, here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/4705/4705-h/4705-h.htm>

- Available from Bennett’s Early Modern Texts, here (link is to Volume 1, other volumes similarly available):

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hume1739book1_3.pdf>

**Requirements and Grading:**

*1. Reading*

The ability to read texts carefully and thoughtfully is one of the most important skills the study of philosophy can foster. In order to better understand what is being taught, and to promote informed classroom discussions, required readings should be completed before lecture. Note that for each class there are core, further, company and secondary readings listed on the syllabus. You are only responsible for the core readings. Those core readings are typically short, but difficult, and students who wish to do well in the course will want to work through core texts very carefully. You may also want to explore the other readings to get a broader sense of our topics, thinkers, and context. You should feel free to skim those readings and focus on anything that catches your attention. The final exam will not test comprehension of further, company and secondary readings but you may engage with those readings in your writing assignments if you wish. Note: I will be distributing my “lecture notes” after each class. Students are encouraged to read those notes carefully – you are likely to find them helpful for completing writing assignments and doing well on the final exam.

2. *Papers*

In order to give students a chance to explore topics in greater depth, and to improve their writing skills, each student will be required to write three short papers, one paper corresponding to each of the sections of the course. Papers should be 1000 - 1500 words. All papers should be submitted on the course web site as Word documents. Details concerning paper assignments will be discussed in class. If you have any questions, please ask. Note that for each class there are core, further, company and secondary readings listed on the syllabus. You are only responsible for the core readings

*3. Participation*

Our classroom time will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. It is crucial both for your own learning and for the learning of others that you regularly attend our meeting sessions (with your camera on). Attendance will be taken. Please note: to pass this course, you must pass all components of this course. In particular, that means that a failing participation grade will result in a failing grade for the course.

*4. Final exam*

In order to give students an opportunity to review what they have learned over the course of the semester a final exam will be provided. The exam will be limited to two hours and administered on a date to be determined by the [FAS Registrar’s Office](https://registrar.fas.harvard.edu/).

*5. Grading*

Grades will be determined by scores received for classroom participation, papers, and the final exam according to the following percentages:

First short paper: 10 %

Second short paper: 20 %

Third short paper: 20 %

Participation: 20 %

Final exam: 30 %

*6. Special Needs and Emergencies*

Students requiring special assistance are encouraged to inform the professor at the beginning of the term. We are happy to accommodate those with special needs as far as possible. Absences from class or exam periods and late papers will be dealt with in accordance with the policies described in the [Harvard College Handbook for Students](https://handbook.fas.harvard.edu/book/welcome). Students should expect that late papers will be marked down a third of a letter grade for each day that they are late. Requests made to *prior* to an absence or due date may result in special accommodation.

*7. Academic Integrity*

##### Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers. You should, however, ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance. Further information on university policies concerning academic integrity can be found through the Harvard College Handbook for Students under [Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty](https://handbook.fas.harvard.edu/book/academic-integrity#two).

**UNDERGRADUATE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

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| **Tues, Jan 26** | **Introduction to Early Modern Empiricism** |
| Core (required) | Course Syllabus  |
| Further (optional) | Locke, “The Epistle to the Reader” *Essay*, pp. 6-14.  |
| Secondary (optional) | Peter Anstey, “Experimental versus speculative natural philosophy,” in Peter Anstey and J.A. Schuster, eds. *Science of Nature in the seventeenth century: Patterns of change in early modern natural philosophy* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2005): 215-242.  |

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| **Thurs, Jan 28** | **Innate Knowledge**  |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* I.ii (i.e. Book I, Chapter ii), I.iv.1-6 (i.e. Book I, Chapter iv, Sections 1-6), I.iv.20-22, I.iv.25  |
| Further (optional) | Leibniz’s *New Essay concerning Human Understanding* I.i and I.iii, available online [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/leibniz1705book1.pdf).  |
| Secondary(optional) | Samuel C. Rickless, “Locke’s Polemic against Nativism,” Lex Newman, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Locke’s “Essay Concerning Human Understanding,”* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), 33-66. |
| Company (optional) | Francis Bacon, *Preface and Aphorisms Book I: 1-77*, from Jonathon Bennett, ed., *The New Organon: or True Directions Concerning the Interpretation of Nature*, available online [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bacon1620.pdf). Klein, Jürgen and Guido Giglioni, "Francis Bacon", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/francis-bacon/>> |

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| **Tues, Feb 02** | **What Ideas Are** |
| Core (required): | Locke, *Essay* II.i.1-5, 25; II.ii-iii; II.vi-vii; II.xii.1-7 |
| Further (optional) | Locke, *Essay* II.i.6-24 |
| Secondary(optional) | Martha Brandt Bolton, “The Taxonomy of Ideas in Locke’s *Essay*,” in Lex Newman, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Locke’s “Essay Concerning Human Understanding,”* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), 67-101. |
| Company (optional) | Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1651, Part 1, Chapters I-V, available online [here](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm#link2H_4_0001) and [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part1.pdf). Duncan, Stewart, "Thomas Hobbes", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2019 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2019/entries/hobbes/>> |

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| **Thurs, Feb 04** | **What Ideas Do** |
| Core (required)  | Locke, *Essay* II.ix., II.xi  |
| Further (optional) | Locke, *Essay* II.x; II.xxiii  |
| Secondary(optional): | Thomas Lennon, “Locke on Ideas and Representation,” in Lex Newman, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Locke’s “Essay Concerning Human Understanding,”* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), 231-257. |
| Company (optional) | Henry More, “The Contents of the several Chapters contained in this Treatise,” *The Immortality of the Soul* (London: J. Flesher for William Morden, 1659), available on-line [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A51304.0001.001/1%3A7?rgn=div1;view=fulltext;q1=spirit). Henry, John, "Henry More", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/henry-more/>>, especially *Section 3: The Spirit of Nature*. |

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| **Tues, Feb 09** | **Substance**  |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* I.iv.18; II.xii.1-6; II.xiii 17-20; II.xxiii; III.iii.6 |
| Further (optional) | *Correspondence with Stillingfleet*, Note E, reference at II.xxiii.2 (pages 654-659 in Woolhouse edition – a copy will be posted on the course web site under “Stillingfleet correspondence”).  |
| Secondary(optional) | Nicholas Jolley, “Substance,” in *Locke’s Touchy Subjects: Materialism and Immortality* (Oxford 2015), 50-66. |
| Company (optional) | Francis Mercurius van Helmont, *A Cabbalistical Dialogue*, (London: Benjamin Clark, 1682), available online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A43279.0001.001/1%3A2?rgn=div1;view=fulltext). Stuart Brown, “F.M. van Helmont: His Philosophical Connections and the Reception of His Later Cabbalistic Philosophy,” in M. A. Stewart, *Studies in Seventeenth-Century European Philosophy* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997): 97-116. Available through course site.  |

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| **Thurs, Feb 11** | **Identity**  |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* I.iv.3-5; II.xxvii  |
| Further (optional) | *Correspondence with Stillingfleet*, Note F, reference at II.xxvii.29 (pages 659-684 in Woolhouse edition – a copy of will be posted on the course web site under “Stillingfleet correspondence”). |
| Secondary(optional) | Allison Aitken, “Locke’s Relational Account of Persons,” manuscript. |
| Company (optional)  | Ralph Cudworth, “Digression Concerning Plastick Life of Nature,” *The True Intellectual System of the Universe*, (London: Richard Royston, 1678), available online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A35345.0001.001/1%3A6.3.1?rgn=div3;view=fulltext). Charles M. Richards, “Ralph Cudworth,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/cudworth/#SSH4biv).  |

**Monday, February 15: Presidents Day – No Classes**

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| **Tues, Feb 16** | **Language and Classification**  |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* III.iii  |
| Further (optional)  | Locke, *Essay* II.xxx-xxxii; III.i-vi; III.ix-x |
| Secondary(optional): | Kenneth P. Winkler, “Locke on Essence and the Social Construction of Kinds,” Mathew Stuart, ed., *A Companion to Locke* (Wiley-Blackwell 2016), 212-235.  |
| Company (optional): | Thomas Sydenham, “Author’s Preface,” *Observationes medicae*, Benjamin Rush, trans. *The Works of Thomas Sydenham* (Philadelphia:E. Kimber, et. al): 26 [xxiii] – 38 [xxxv], online [here](https://archive.org/details/2573046R.nlm.nih.gov/page/n25/mode/2up). [Alternative translation with context, available [here](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1369015/#fn25).] Jonathan Walmsley, “Sydenham and the Development of Locke’s Natural Philosophy,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 16 (2008): 65-83. Available through course site. |

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| **Thurs, Feb 18** | **Mechanism**  |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* II.viii, II.xxiii.9-12, II.xxxi.1-2, IV.ii.11 |
| Further (optional)  | Locke, *Essay* II.iv; II.xiii  |
| Secondary(optional) | Lisa Downing, “The Status of Mechanism in Locke’s Essay”, The Philosophical Review, 107 (3): 381–414. |
| Company (optional) | Robert Boyle, *The Origin of Forms and Qualities* (1666), Sections 1-2, online in edited format [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/boyle1666.pdf); unedited [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A29017.0001.001/1%3A5?rgn=div1;view=toc). William Eaton, “Robert Boyle,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/boyle/). See, also the Robert Boyle Project [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/boyle/learn/introduction).  |

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| **Tues, Feb 23** | **Knowledge** |
| Core (required) | Locke, *Essay* IV.i-iv; IV.xi; IV.xii.13-15; IV.xv |
| Further (optional)  | Locke, *Essay* IV.v-vi; IV.x; IV.xviii |
| Secondary(optional) | Matthew Priselac, “Locke: Knowledge of the External World,” James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds. *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, available on-line [here](https://www.iep.utm.edu/locke-kn/). |
| Company (optional) | Anne Conway, “Chapters 7&8: Body and Spirit,” *The Principles of the most Ancient and Modern Philosophy God, Christ, and Creatures The Nature of Spirit and Matter (*1666), online edited version [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/conway1692.pdf); unedited version [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A29017.0001.001/1%3A5?rgn=div1;view=toc). Hutton, Sarah, "Lady Anne Conway", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2020/entries/conway/>>. See also Conway’s page on Project Vox [here](http://projectvox.org/conway-1631-1679/). |

**--BERKELEY--**

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| **Thurs, Feb 25** | **Abstract Ideas** |
| Core (required): | Berkeley, *Principles*: Introduction |
| Further (optional): | Berkeley, *Principles*: 3, 10, 11-13, 97, 98, 100, 116, 125, 143; Locke *Essay* II.xiii.13; III.iii.7 |
| Secondary(optional) | Samuel C. Rickless, “The Relation Between Anti-Abstractionism and Idealism in Berkeley’s Metaphysics,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 2012 (20:4) 723-740. Available through Harvard Library subcription [here](https://doi-org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/10.1080/09608788.2012.679782). |
| Company (optional): | Edward Stillingfleet, “The Bishop of Worcester’s Answer to Mr. Locke’s Letter, &c.,” online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A61522.0001.001/1%3A2?rgn=div1;view=fulltext). Vere Chappell, “Edward Stillingfleet,” in A.C. Grayling, et. al., *The Continuum Encyclopedia of British Philosophy*, available through library subscription [here](https://www-oxfordreference-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/view/10.1093/acref/9780199754694.001.0001/acref-9780199754694-e-2004?rskey=pkUes9&result=3). |

DUE: Sunday, February 28, First short paper on Locke section. Papers must be submitted on the course website as Word documents by 11:59 pm (EST).

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| **Tues, March 02** | **Vision**  |
| Core (required) | Berkeley’s *An essay towards a new theory of vision* (NTV): sections 1-28; 41-52; 127-138, available on-line [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1709.pdf) (via earlymoderntexts.com) and [here](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/39746/39746-pdf.pdf) (via Project Gutenberg).  |
| Further (optional) | Berkeley, *The Theory of Vision Vindicated and Explained*, available on-line [here](https://books.google.com/books?id=WooXAAAAYAAJ&pg=PR9#v=onepage&q&f=false) (via Google Books).  |
| Secondary(optional) | Margaret Atherton, “Chapter 2: An Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision,” in her *Berkeley* (Blackwell 2020), 13-29. |
| Company (optional)  | Nicolas Malebranche, “Seventh Dialogue,” *Dialogues on Metaphysics*, online [here](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/malebranche1688_3.pdf). Schmaltz, Tad, "Nicolas Malebranche", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2017/entries/malebranche/>>. |

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| **Thurs, March 4** | **Against Materialism: *Principles***  |
| Core (required): | Berkeley, *Principles* 1-24 |
| Further (optional) | *Dialogues* I and II |
| Secondary(optional) | Robert Muehlmann, “Chapter IV: Representative Realism and Immaterialism,” *Berkeley’s Ontology* (Hackett, 1992), 111-130. |
| Company (optional) | Isaac Newton, [“General Scholium,” from the *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (1729)](http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk/view/texts/normalized/NATP00056).G.A.J. Rogers, “Isaac Newton,” in A.C. Grayling, et. al., *The Continuum Encyclopedia of British Philosophy*, available through library subscription [here](https://www-oxfordreference-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/view/10.1093/acref/9780199754694.001.0001/acref-9780199754694-e-1545?rskey=iO9jF7&result=1). See also the Newton Project [here](http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk/). |

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| **Tues, March 09** | **Against Materialism: *Dialogues***  |
| Core (required) | Berkeley, *Dialogues* I and II |
| Further (optional) | Berkeley, *Principles* 1-24 |
| Secondary(optional) | Melissa Frankel, “Revisiting Berkeley’s Perceptual Relativity Argument,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 2013 (30:2): 161-176.  |
| Company (optional) | Pierre Bayle, “Pyrrhonism,” *An Historical and Critical Dictionary*, Volume 3, online [here](https://books.google.com/books?id=yGUZqHAMm5UC&dq=inauthor%3A%22Pierre%20Bayle%22&pg=PA53#v=onepage&q&f=false). Lennon, Thomas M. and Michael Hickson, "Pierre Bayle", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = [<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2017/entries/bayle/>](https://books.google.com/books?id=yGUZqHAMm5UC&dq=inauthor%3A%22Pierre%20Bayle%22&pg=PA53#v=onepage&q&f=false). |

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| **Thurs, March 11** | **Ordinary Objects**  |
| Core (required) | Berkeley, *Principles* 3, 45-48; *Dialogues* III |
| Further (optional) | Berkeley, *Letter to Percival, 6 September 1710* (a copy will be posted on the course web site) |
| Secondary(optional) | Margaret Atherton, “Berkeley’s Claims about Real Physical Objects,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 16-1 (2008): 85-100.  |
| Company (optional) | William Molyneux, “Letter of 7 July 1688 to John Locke” (in *The Correspondence of John Locke*, E.S. de Beer, ed., Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978, vol. 3, no. 1064), online [here](https://hilo.hawaii.edu/~ronald/230/Molyneux.htm).Locke, *Essay* II.9.8, online [here](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10615/10615-h/10615-h.htm#link2HCH0012).Berkeley, *New Theory of Vision*, Sections 95-112, online [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/berkeley1709.pdf). Brian Glenney, “Molyneux’s Question,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/molyneux/). |

**Tuesday, March 16: Wellness Day – No Courses Meet**

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| **OPTIONAL:****Tues, March 16** | **OPTIONAL: Theoretical Objects**  |
| Core (required): | Berkeley, *On Motion* (De Motu), Sections 1-72 ; *Principles* 60-65 |
| Further (optional): | *Principles* 60-65, 109-117; *Dialogues* 17-18 |
| Secondary(optional) | Lisa Downing, “Berkeley’s Natural Philosophy and Philosophy of Science,” in Kenneth Winkler, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Berkeley* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 230-265.  |
| Company (optional):  | Mary Astell, “Two Letters by way of Review,” M. Astell and J. Norris, *Letters Concerning the Love of God*, (London: J. Norris, 1695), available online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A52424.0001.001/1%3A10?rgn=div1;view=fulltext). Jacqueline Broad, “Mary Astell,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/astell/). See also her page on Project Vox [here](http://projectvox.org/astell-1666-1731/). |

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| **Thurs, March 18** | **Human Agency and God**  |
| Core (required): | *Principles* 25-28, 137-138; *Dialogues* 3:236-240; *Philosophical Commentaries* 107, 461, 499, 548, 699. (Relevant sections of the *Commentaries* will be posted on the course web site.) |
| Further (optional): reading: | Samuel Johnson, Letter 10 September 1729 (The letter to Johnson will be posted on the course web site.)  |
| Secondary(optional)  | Nicholas Jolley, “Berkeley and Malebranche on Causality and Volition,” in *Central Themes in Early Modern Philosophy: Essays Presented to Jonathan Bennett*, eds. J. A. Cover and Mark Kulstad (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1990), 227–244. |
| Company (optional): | Damaris Masham, *A Discourse Concerning the Love of God*, (London: Awnsham and John Churchi …, 1696), online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo2/A52162.0001.001/1%3A3?rgn=div1;view=toc). Hutton, Sarah, "Lady Damaris Masham", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), forthcoming URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2020/entries/lady-masham/>> See also her page on Project Vox [here](http://projectvox.org/masham-1659-1708/). |

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| **Tues, March 23** | **Human Agency and Idealism**  |
| Core (required) | *Dialogues* 3:236-240 |
| Further (optional) | Berkeley’s Reply to Johnson 25 November 1729 (Berkeley’s reply to Johnson will be posted on the course web site.)  |
| Secondary(optional) | Phillip D. Cummins, “Berkeley on Minds and Agency” in Kenneth P. Winkler, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), 190–229. |
| Company (optional) | Samuel Clarke, “A Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God,” *Works*, Volume 2, pp. 521-577. A version is on-line [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/clarke1704.pdf). Yenter, Timothy and Ezio Vailati, "Samuel Clarke", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), forthcoming URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2020/entries/clarke/>> |

**--HUME--**

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| **Thur, March 25** | **The Study of Human Nature** |
| Core (required) | *Treatise* Hume’s “Introduction” (pages 3-6 in the Norton edition); I.1.i-v; Hume’s anonymously published “Abstract of the Treatise” (pages 407-417 in the Norton edition). (I’ll post Hume’s Introduction and Abstract on the course web site.) |
| Further (optional) | *Enquiry*, Sections 1-3; Hume, “My Own Life,” online [here](https://www.econlib.org/book-chapters/chapter-my-own-life-by-david-hume/). Adam Smith, Letter to William Strahan,” online [here](https://www.econlib.org/book-chapters/chapter-letter-from-adam-smith-l-l-d-to-william-strahan-esq/).  |
| Secondary(optional) | Mirem Boehm, “Hume’s Foundational Project in the Treatise,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 21:3 (2013): 55-77. |
| Company (optional) | David Hartley, “Introduction,” “The General Laws According to Which the Sensations and Motions are Performed, and our Ideas Generated (four paragraphs), and “Conclusion: Containing some remarks on the mechanism of the human mind,” in Observations on Man (London: Thomas Tegg and Son, 1834), online [here](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Observations_on_Man_His_Frame_His_Duty_a/OVwPAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA4&printsec=frontcover). Allen, Richard, "David Hartley", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2020/entries/hartley/>>. |

DUE: Sunday, March 28, Short paper on Berkeley section. Papers must be submitted on the course website as Word documents by 11:59 pm (EST).

**Wednesday, March 31: Wellness Day – No Courses Meet**

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| **Tues, March 30** | **Hume’s Critique of Induction** |
| Core (required): | *Enquiry*, Section 4 |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iii |
| Secondary(optional) | Janet Broughton, “Hume’s Skepticism about Causal Inferences,” *The Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 64:1 (1983): 3-18.  |
| Company (optional) | Thomas Reid, *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, Essay IV, Chapter 9, available in edited version [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/reid1788essay4_3.pdf); in unedited version [here](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Essays_on_the_Active_Powers_of_Man/5ksOAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1). Nichols, Ryan and Gideon Yaffe, "Thomas Reid", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2016 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <[https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2016/entries/reid/](Nichols%2C%20Ryan%20and%20Gideon%20Yaffe%2C%20%22Thomas%20Reid%22%2C%20The%20Stanford%20Encyclopedia%20of%20Philosophy%20%28Winter%202016%20Edition%29%2C%20Edward%20N.%20Zalta%20%28ed.%29%2C%20URL%20%3D%20%3Chttps%3A/plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2016/entries/reid/%3E.)>. |

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| **Thurs, April 01** |  **Hume’s Skeptical Solution?** |
| Core (required): | *Enquiry*, Sections 5-6 |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iii  |
| Secondary(optional): | Hsueh Qu, “Hume’s Positive Argument on Induction,” *Noûs* 48:4 (2014): 595-625. |
| Company (optional): | Étienne Bonnot de Condillac, *An Essay on the Origin of Human Knowledge*, Part 1, Chapter VII, pages 67-74, English translation (1756) online [here](https://archive.org/details/anessayonorigin00condgoog/page/n128/mode/2up); original French edition online [here](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Essai_sur_l_origine_des_connaissances_hu/QHJVZfu_9scC?hl=en&gbpv=0). Falkenstein, Lorne and Giovanni Grandi, "Étienne Bonnot de Condillac", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2017/entries/condillac/>>. |

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| **Tues, April 06** | **The Idea of Necessity** |
| Core (required): | *Enquiry*, Section 7 |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iii.14 |
| Secondary(optional): | Simon Blackburn, “Hume and Thick Connexions,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 50, supplement (1990): 237-50.  |
| Company (optional): | Jean-Baptiste le Rond d’Alembert, “Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot,” (University of Chicago, 1995), online [here](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/did2222.0001.083/--preliminary-discourse?rgn=main;view=fulltext). Johnson, Paul F. *Philosophical outlook and the Preliminary Discourse*. D’Alembert, Jean Le Rond (1717–83), 1998, doi:10.4324/9780415249126-DB021-1. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Taylor and Francis, <https://www.rep.routledge.com/articles/biographical/dalembert-jean-le-rond-1717-83/v-1/sections/philosophical-outlook-and-the-preliminary-discourse>. Available through library subscription. |

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| **Thurs, April 08** | **Skepticism with Regard to the Senses, first half**  |
| Core (required): | *Treatise* I.iv.2 – paragraphs 1 -22  |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iv.2 – paragraphs 22 – 57 |
| Secondary(optional): | Donald L. M. Baxter, “Identity, Continued Existence, and the External World,” in Saul Traiger, ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Hume’s* Treatise (Blackwell, 2006), pp. 114-132. |
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| Company (optional): | Adam Smith, “Chapter 1: Of Sympathy,” *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, online [here](https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/smith-the-theory-of-moral-sentiments-and-on-the-origins-of-languages-stewart-ed#lf1648_head_008). Jack Russell Weinstein, “Adam Smith,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/smith/).  |

**Thursday, April 15: Wellness Day – No Courses Meet**

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| **Tues, April 13** | **Skepticism with Regard to the Senses, second half** |
| Core (required): | *Treatise* I.iv.2 – paragraphs 22 – 57 |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iv.3-4 |
| Secondary(optional): | Ruth Weintraub. 2003. “The Naturalistic Response to Scepticism,” *Philosophy: The Journal of the Royal Institute of Philosophy* (78) 369-386.   |
| Company (optional): | Dugald Stewart, “Preliminary Dissertation,” *Philosophical Essays*, Second Edition (Edinburgh: George Ramsay and Company, 1816), pp. 71-114. Online [here](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b79124&view=1up&seq=13). Knud Haakonssen, “Dugald Stewart,” in A.C. Grayling, et. al., *The Continuum Encyclopedia of British Philosophy*, available through library subscription [here](https://www-oxfordreference-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/view/10.1093/acref/9780199754694.001.0001/acref-9780199754694-e-1999?rskey=bvxjTT&result=10).  |

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| **Tues, April 20** | **Personal Identity**  |
| Core (required): | *Treatise* I.iv.5-6; Appendix;  |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.ii.1-6; I.i.2, I.iii.5 |
| Secondary(optional): | Donald Ainslie, “Hume on Personal Identity,” in Elizabeth Radcliffe, *A Companion to Hume* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), pp. 140-156. |
| Company (optional): | James Beattie, *Essay on Truth*, III.ii, especially pp. 463-468, online [here](https://www.google.com/books/edition/An_Essay_on_the_Nature_and_Immutability/xDj74ukDEh8C?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA468&printsec=frontcover). See for reference, Hume “Of National Characters,” especially footnote 10, online [here](https://www.econlib.org/library/LFBooks/Hume/hmMPL.html?chapter_num=26#aa1); and Part II, Essay XI, “Of the Populousness of Ancient Nations,” online [here](https://www.econlib.org/book-chapters/chapter-part-ii-essay-xi-of-the-populousness-of-ancient-nations/). Douglas McDermid, “James Beattie,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/beattiej/#H3).  |

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| **Thurs, April 22** | **Naturalism or Skepticism?**  |
| Core (required): | *Treatise* I.iv.7 (Conclusion of this book)  |
| Further (optional): | *Treatise* I.iv.1;  |
| Secondary(optional): | Janet Broughton, “Hume’s Naturalism and His Skepticism,” in Elizabeth Radcliffe, *A Companion to Hume* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), pp. 425-440.  |
| Company (optional): | Mary Shepard, “Chapter VIII: Recapitulation,” in *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe*, (London: John Hatchard and Son, 1827), pp. 168-174, online [here](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Essays_on_the_Perception_of_an_External/NH3q6FDQffQC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Academical%20or%20Skeptical%20Philosophy%20shepard&pg=PA168&printsec=frontcover). Bolton, Martha, "Mary Shepherd", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2017/entries/mary-shepherd/>. |

DUE: Sunday, April 25, Third short paper on Hume section. Papers must be submitted on the course as Word documents by 11:59 pm (EST).

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| **Tues, April 27** | **Early Modern Empiricism: Conclusion** |
| Core (required): | Immanuel Kant, “Preamble on the special features of all metaphysical knowledge,” *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysic that can Present itself as a Science*, pp. 7-12. Bennett translation online [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1783.pdf). C. S. Peirce, “Abduction and Induction,” Justus Buchler, ed. *Philosophical Writings of Peirce* (New York: Dover): 150-156. Available through course site.  |
| Further (optional): | Immanuel Kant, “Introduction” and “General Problems,” *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysic that can Present itself as a Science*, pp. 1-7, 7-12. Bennett translation online [here](https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1783.pdf). C.S. Peirce, “On the Natural Classification of Arguments,” *Writings of Charles S. Peirce: A Chronological Edition*, Volume 2, pp. 23-48. Available through course site.  |
| Secondary (optional): | Matt McCormick, “Immanuel Kant: Metaphysics,” in James Fieser and Bradley Dowden, eds., *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, online [here](https://iep.utm.edu/peir-log/). Arthur W. Burks, “Peirce’s Theory of Abduction,” *Philosophy of Science* 1946 (13:4): 301-306. Course site. Catherine Wilson, “Philosophical and Scientific Empiricism and Rationalism in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,” in S. Bodenmann and A.-L. Rey, eds., *What Does It Mean to be an Empiricist?* (Springer, 2018), pp. 123-138. Course site.  |

FINAL EXAM

10 May 2021, 2:00 – 4:00pm

1. The image is of *Nicholas Copernicus Observing the Stars* by Jan Matejkos, dated to the late 19th century. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)