SEMINAR ON EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 514 Wednesday 2 to 5PM
Professor Margaret Schabas, Buchanan E358

Course Description: We will devote the entire course to David Hume (1711-76), arguably the most influential philosopher to have written in the English language. We will undertake a careful reading of Hume's *Treatise*, covering his epistemology and metaphysics as well as his moral and political philosophy.   We will also read Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, and the *Cambridge Companion to Hume.*

Texts:
David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000) (THN)
David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (Hackett 1998) (DNR)
David Fate Norton and Jacqueline Taylor, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Hume,* 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009) (CC)
These will be available at the UBC Bookstore, or can be purchased as e-books from Amazon.

Grading:

2 Short Essays	30
1 Long Research Essay	50
Class Participation	20
	100%

Logistics: Please do the assigned reading ahead of class and always have it at hand so we can refer to specific passages. A good grade for class participation requires regular attendance (one justified absence is allowed) and frequent and constructive contributions. Each student will also be assigned as the lead-off discussant for one class. I hope to hold the class on campus, face-to-face, with proper safety precautions. I will use the requisite on-line resources in order that any student unable to attend in person can also participate. If the assigned time cannot work for you, kindly let me know and we will see if an alternative time block is feasible, given the small size of the seminar.

Essays: For the two short essays (each about 4-5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced), write a textual exegesis on a passage in Hume's *Treatise* that we have covered by the due date.   This means that you raise questions about what Hume meant by a specific passage and then evaluate his efforts to answer the philosophical problem it posed. Do no research for the short essays. They are essentially précis, offering you the opportunity to dig more deeply into a specific topic and to practice your writing.

For the Long Research Essay (due January 6, 2021), please submit an Essay Outline (due November 25th). For that, please provide a working title and your list of articles to be used. I will provide feedback and give you a green light to go ahead and write the essay (about 12-15 pages or 3,000 words minimum). You are to find 7 to 10 journal articles, from *Hume Studies* or an alternative reputable journal, that engage the same basic debate.   Your sources should be relatively recent, and ideally published since 1990. The more the set of articles disagree with one another, the better. You may draw on some of the chapters from the CC or chapters from other established anthologies on Hume (I will provide a list). Use Hume's texts to develop an interpretation that resolves the debate and makes clear the

merits of one scholarly reading over the others. There should be a clear argument from beginning to end.

Schedule

September 9:   Preliminaries, CC Ch. 1 (Norton)

September 16: *Treatise*, Book One, Part One, I9-I21, CC Ch. 2 (Biro)

September 23: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Two, I21-I24, CC Ch. 3 (Owen)

September 30: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Three, Sections 1-10, CC Ch. 5 (Bell)

October 7: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Three, Sections 11-16, CC Ch. 6 (McIntyre)
               First Short Essay Due

October 14: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Four, CC Ch. 7 (Fogelin)

October 21: *Treatise*, Book Two, Part One, CC Chs. 8 & 9 (Penelhum; Norton)

October 28: *Treatise*, Book Two, Parts Two and Three, CC Ch. 10 (Taylor))

November 4: *Treatise,* Book Three, Part One and Two, CC Ch. 11 (Haakonssen)
Second Short Essay Due

November 11:   Remembrance Day, Statutory Holiday (No Class)

November 18: *Treatise*, Book Three, Part Three, CC Ch. 12 (Skinner)

November 25: *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* **Essay Outline Due**

December 2: *Dialogues* continued, CC Ch. 15 (Gaskin)

January 6: **Essay Due** (3 PM)

You have the option of turning work in earlier than the due dates if you wish to receive some graded feedback before October, or finish the class before the winter holidays. But late submissions will receive a penalty of 5% per week unless there is a documented reason, provided in advance, for the delay. This holds for all three assignments and the outline. You have the option of submitting your work on-line but I would prefer paper submissions. The list of references at the end should conform to the Chicago MLA style or the one used in the Cambridge Companion. Please try to keep endnotes to a minimum.   Be sure to proofread your work and make final corrections with a pen. I am obliged to inform you about the policy on plagiarism, given here.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

*A link about Academic misconduct is below:*SEP

http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54, 111,959