

Philosophy in the 18th Century (PHIL 315)

University of British Columbia

Semester 2 - 2022

Course Instructor:

Fatema Amijee
email: fatema.amijee@ubc.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

TA:

TBA
email: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course will examine central themes in the philosophical systems of philosophers from the 18th century and beyond: John Locke, Catharine Cockburn, George Berkeley, David Hume, Thomas Reid, and Mary Shepherd. The issues taken up by these philosophers and their ways of grappling with them have helped to define modern conceptions of the world and of our place in it. For this reason, these philosophical systems continue to be important and influential in philosophy down to the present day. We will focus on the interpretation and evaluation of the arguments these philosophers offer in the areas of metaphysics and theory of knowledge. Among the particular topics to be discussed are: the nature of perception, idealism, skepticism about the external world, notions of causality and substance, self-knowledge, the problem of induction, and personal identity.

Course Readings

All readings will be made available on Canvas. Students who wish to purchase hard copies are welcome to do so. The following texts will be used extensively:

1. John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Roger Woolhouse, Penguin Books
2. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, edited by Peter Millican, Oxford University Press
3. George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues*, edited with an introduction by Howard Robinson, Oxford University Press

Evaluation

1. Paper 1: 20%. Due: February 8th by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)
 - Paper 1 should be no longer than 800 words. Essay topics will be assigned in advance.

2. Paper 2: 25%. Due: March 8th by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)
 - Paper 2 should be no longer than 800 words. Essay topics will be assigned in advance.
3. Paper 3: 25%. Due: March 29th by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)
 - Paper 3 should be no longer than 800 words. Essay topics will be assigned in advance.
4. Final Exam: 30%. Date TBA (Pacific Time)
 - The final exam will consist in short-answer questions, and will be cumulative.

Reading Schedule

1. Week of Jan 10 - John Locke I

Reading: Essay, Book I, Chapters 1-4; Book II, Chapters 1-7; Raffaella De Rosa, “Locke’s Essay, Book I: The Question-Begging Status of the Anti-Nativist Arguments”

2. Week of Jan 17 - John Locke II

Reading: Essay, Book II, Chapter 8-12, Chapter 21, 23, 30 and 31; Samuel Rickless, “Locke on Primary and Secondary Qualities”

3. Week of Jan 24 - John Locke III

Reading: Essay, Book II, Chapters 13, 23, and 27, Book III, Chapters 1-3 and 6; Martha Bolton, “Substances, Substrata, and Names of Substances in Locke’s Essay”; Kenneth Winkler, “Locke on Personal Identity”

4. Week of Jan 30 - Catharine Cockburn on Locke

Reading: Selections from “A Defense of Mr Locke’s Essay of Human Understanding”; Jessica Gordon-Roth, “Catharine Trotter Cockburn’s ‘Defence’ of Locke”; Jacqueline Broad, “Catharine Trotter Cockburn”

5. Week of Feb 7 - George Berkeley I

Reading: Three Dialogues, 1st Dialogue; Margaret Wilson, “Berkeley on the Mind-Dependence of Colors”

6. Week of Feb 14 -George Berkeley II

Reading: Three Dialogues, 2nd Dialogue and 3rd Dialogue up to p. 82; Charles McCracken, “What Does Berkeley’s God See in the Quad?”

7. Week of Feb 21 - READING WEEK

8. Week of Feb 28: David Hume I

Reading: Enquiry, Sections 1-3; Barry Stroud, “The Theory of Ideas”; Robert Fogelin, “Hume and the Missing Shade of Blue”

9. Week of Mar 7 - David Hume II

Reading: Enquiry, Sections 4-6; Kenneth Winkler, “Hume’s Skeptical Logic of Induction”

10. Week of Mar 14: David Hume III

Reading: Enquiry, Sections 7-8; Helen Beebee, “Hume and the Problem of Causation”; Kenneth Winkler, “The New Hume”

11. Week of Mar 21 - Thomas Reid on Representationalism and Causation

Reading: Selections from An Inquiry into the Human Mind and Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man; Selections from Essays on the Active Powers of Man; Keith DeRose, “Reid’s Anti-Sensationalism and His Realism”; James van Cleve, Ch. 14 from Problems from Reid

12. Week of Mar 28 - Mary Shepherd on Perception

Reading: Essays on the Perception of an External Universe, Part II, Essays 1-2 and 6; Margaret Atherton, “Lady Mary Shepherd’s Case Against Berkeley”; Samuel Rickless, “Is Shepherd’s Pen Mightier Than Berkeley’s Word?”

13. Week of Apr 4 - Mary Shepherd on Causation

Reading: Selections from Essay upon the Relation of Cause and Effect; Martha Bolton, “Lady Mary Shepherd and David Hume on Cause and Effect”; Jeremy Fantl, “Mary Shepherd on Causal Necessity”

Course Business

1. *Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.* 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. Here is the link to the UBC Calendar entry on Academic Misconduct: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>
2. *How to Avoid Plagiarising:* Most students plagiarise because they believe themselves to be without options. But no student will ever be without options in this course. If you find yourself in trouble, and tempted to cheat, contact your professor or your TA immediately. If you haven’t yet cheated, a solution can always be found.
3. *Late Penalties.* This will be a challenging and fast-paced course. It is highly recommended that you attend every class meeting and get your work in on time. The late penalty on the papers is set at 1/3 of a letter grade per day, to a maximum of three days (this includes weekends/holidays). Any work outstanding beyond this point will receive a grade of 0.
4. *Concessions.* If you need an extension on an assignment (due to a medical or family emergency, for example) please contact Arts Advising. All concession requests must go through Arts Advising or the equivalent.
5. *Your Course Contact.* Your professor and your TA are your primary contacts. We will respond to all emails within 48 hours. If you have substantive philosophical questions, I encourage you to come and see us in office hours or set up an appointment.
6. *Special Accommodations.* Students requesting special accommodation should contact UBC’s Centre for Accessibility and talk to the professor.

7. UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>)