

SEMINAR ON MODERN PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 516 Monday 2 to 5PM Buchanan D324
Professor Margaret Schabas, Buchanan E358
Office Hours: Thursday 1 to 3PM

Course Description: We will devote the entire course to a study of David Hume (1711-76), allegedly 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 some chapters from the *Cambridge Companion to Hume* (available as an e-book from the UBC Library). The short introduction by Don Garret, *Hume* (Routledge 2015), is highly recommended.

Texts:

David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2000). Please purchase the book from the UBC Bookstore. It is important that we all use the same source.

Grading:	2 Short Essays	30
	1 Long Research Essay	50
	Class Participation	<u>20</u>
		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 frequent and constructive contributions as well as regular attendance (one justified absence is allowed). Each student will also be assigned as the lead-off discussant for one class. All assignments are to be posted on Canvas, by 10 PM on the due date. Late penalty is 5% per day.

Essays: For each of the two short essays (1,200 words maximum) write a textual exegesis on a passage from Hume's *Treatise* that we have covered by the due date. This means that you raise questions about what Hume meant and adjudicate **his** efforts to answer the philosophical problem it posed. Do **no** research for the short essays. They are intended to give you the opportunity to dig more deeply into a specific passage or topic in the primary source, to practice your writing, and to provide you with a souvenir of Hume's *Treatise*.

For the Long Research Essay (due January 6, 2026), please submit an Essay Outline by November 17. For the outline, just provide a working title, one or two sentences about your topic, and your list of 8 to 10 journal articles or book chapters that will be used. I will provide feedback and give you a green light to go ahead and write the essay (about 3,000 words). For your research, start with the *Cambridge Companions*, *Hume Studies*, the *Philosopher's Index*, and branch out from there. There are also a number of anthologies of Hume scholarship. Your sources should be relatively recent, and ideally published since 1990. The more the set of articles disagree with one another, and form a debate on a specific topic, the better. Use Hume's *Treatise* and other sources by Hume to develop an argument that resolves the scholarly debate and makes clear the merits of one secondary source as superior to the others.

Schedule

September 8: *Treatise*, Book One, Introduction and Part One

September 15: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Two

September 22: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Three, Sections 1-10

September 29: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Three, Sections 11-16.
First Short Essay Due (on Canvas)

October 6: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Four, Sections 1-4

October 13: Thanksgiving Holiday

October 20: *Treatise*, Book One, Part Four, Sections 5-7

October 27: *Treatise*, Book Two, Part One
Second Short Essay Due

November 3: *Treatise*, Book Two, Parts Two and Three

November 10: Midterm Break

November 17: *Treatise*, Book Three, Part One
Essay Outline Due

November 24: *Treatise*, Book Three, Part Two

December 1: *Treatise*, Book Three, Part Three; Student Presentations (Long Essay)

January 6: **Essay Due** (10 PM)

You have the option of turning work in earlier than the due dates and finishing the class before the winter holidays. Late submissions, however, will receive a penalty of 5% per day unless there is a documented reason, provided in advance, for the delay. This holds for all three assignments. Please submit your work on Canvas as both a copy-and-paste and a pdf, and keep a file on your desktop of your drafts that I may, unfortunately, have to request to establish academic integrity. The list of references for the long essay should conform to the Chicago Manual of Style, not the MLA format. Please try to keep footnotes to a minimum. Be sure to proofread your work (advisably on paper) and number the pages. No AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) are to be used for constructing or composing your essays. I am obliged to inform you about the following policies.

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.

Academic Integrity

You are personally responsible for understanding and following the UBC's policies for academic integrity: <https://vancouver.calendar.ubc.ca/campus-wide-policies-and-regulations/academic-honesty-and-standards>.

Student success

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, spiritual 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/policies-resources-support-student-success/>.

Policy on the use of AI learning tools

The specific rules for the use of AI tools are at the discretion of the course instructor. Those rules might change over the course of the term as new technologies become available. Changes to those rules might change the content of assessments and the way that your work is evaluated. If no written instructions on the use of AI tools have been provided by the instructor, the use of all AI tools is strictly prohibited in the course. Where the written instructions permit the use of AI tools, that usage must be documented and attributed within your assessment(s). Students are responsible for all factual inaccuracies that are created by the use of AI tools. Please speak to your instructor if you have further questions about the ways in which AI technology use is permitted in this course.

For the assignments in this seminar, no AI tools are permitted.