

History of Philosophy 0101 Faculty Class

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MAIN SOURCES

[Nearly all primary texts can be found on *Past Masters* on <http://library.nlx.com/>]

John Locke: *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*

George Berkeley: *Principles of Human Knowledge*

George Berkeley: *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*

David Hume: *Treatise of Human Nature*

David Hume: *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*

J. L. Mackie (1975) *Problems from Locke*

Jonathan Bennett: *Locke, Berkeley, Hume*

R. J. Fogelin (2001) *Routledge philosophy guidebook to Berkeley and the Principles of Human Knowledge*.

B. Stroud: *Hume*

Optional

M. Ayers (1991) *Locke* (2 vols). Routledge. [later one-volume editions are identical]

Wk 1: Primary and Secondary Qualities

What is Locke's argument for the distinction? How justified are Berkeley's and Hume's criticisms of Locke?

Readings

Locke: *Essay*, Bk. II, chs. 4, 8. (See also Bk II, ch 23 §§7-12,23,28; Bk. IV, ch 2 §11ff, ch 3 §11, ch 4 §§3,4.)

Berkeley: *Principles*, 8-15.

Hume: *Treatise*, Bk I, part IV, sect. 4

Mackie, ch. 1

J. J. Campbell, 'Locke on Qualities', repr. in: *Locke* (1998) (ed. V. Chappell). OUP.

Further readings

Ayers, part I, chs. 4-7

M.G.J. Evans (1980) 'Things Without the Mind', repr. in: *Collected Papers* (1985).

- Your essay should be between 4 and 6 pages long.
- The first paragraph of your essay must state the main thesis for which you wish to argue in the essay.
- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.

Wk 2: Locke and Berkeley on abstract ideas

Does Berkeley have a compelling argument against Locke's theory of abstract ideas?

Readings

Locke: *Essay* Bk II: ch. 7 §7, ch. 11 §9, ch. 13 §§10-13, ch. 29 §§13-16; Bk. III: chs. 1-3; Bk IV: ch. 3 §19, ch. 7 §9

Berkeley: Introduction to *Principles*

Mackie, ch. 4

Fogelin, chs. 8, 9

Further readings

Ayers, vol. I, chs. 3, 27-8

Bennett, ch. 2

Hume, *Treatise*, Bk I, part I, sect. 7.

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Wk 3: Berkeley's idealism

'I do not deny the existence of material substance, merely because I have no notion of it, but because the notion of it is inconsistent, or in other words, because it is repugnant that there should be a notion of it.' Discuss.

Readings

Berkeley, *Principles*, §§1-91

Berkeley, *The Third Dialogue between Hylas and Philonous*

Bennett, ch. 6

Fogelin, chs. 3, 6-7

Russell, B.A.W. (1912) *The Problems of Philosophy*. OUP. Chs. III, IV.

Further readings

Berlin, I. (1950) 'Empirical Propositions and Hypothetical Statements', in: *Mind* 59, pp. 289-312.

Bennett, ch. 3

Fogelin, ch. 5

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Wk 4: Hume on the external world

Is Hume right in thinking that we have no good reason to believe in the existence of objects which are distinct from perceptions? Compare his view with Locke's.

Readings

Hume, *Treatise*, Bk I, part IV, sect. 2

Locke, *Essay*, Bk IV, ch 4, §§1-4; ch. 11, §§1-8

Stroud, ch. 5

Quine, W.V.O. (1960) *Word and Object*, §§5,6

Further readings

Mackie, ch. 2

Strawson, P.F. 'Imagination and Perception', in his: *Freedom and Resentment*

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- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.

Wk 5: Hume on induction

What is Hume's sceptical solution to the problem of induction? Does it imply that any belief related to future events is baseless? (You might also compare his problem to Goodman's 'new riddle of induction'.)

Readings

Hume, *Enquiry*, sects. IV, V

Hume, *Treatise*, Bk I, part III, sects 7-10

Stroud, chs. 3-4

Further readings

Goodman, N. (1983) *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*, chs. 1-3

Scheffler, I. (1994) 'Inductive inference', in: *Grue!* (ed. Stalker)

- Your essay should be between 4 and 6 pages long.
- The first paragraph of your essay must state the main thesis for which you wish to argue in the essay.
- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.

Wk 6: Hume on causation

Is Hume giving an account of what we mean when we talk about one thing causing another, or of what we know about causation?

Readings

Hume, *Enquiry*, sect. VII

Hume, *Treatise*, Bk I, part III, sects. 1, 2, 6, 14

Stroud, ch. 4

Strawson, G. 'Objects and power', in: Read and Richman (eds.) *The New Hume Debate* (2000)

Further readings

Blackburn, S. 'Hume and thick connexions', in: *The New Hume Debate*

Craig, E. 'Hume on causality: projectivist *and* realist?', in: *The New Hume Debate*

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- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.

Wk 7: Hume on personal identity

What is death, according to Hume? Is his view tenable?

Readings

Hume, *Treatise*, Bk I, part IV, sects. 5, 6; Appendix, pp. 633-6

Stroud, ch. 6

Parfit, D. *Reasons and Persons* (1984), sects. 77-81, 95

Further readings

Williams, B.A.O. 'The Self and the Future', repr. in: *Problems of the Self*

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- The first paragraph of your essay must state the main thesis for which you wish to argue in the essay.
- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.

Wk 8: Locke on personal identity

Is Locke right to think that there is a distinction between the identity of man, the identity of person and the identity of substance?

Readings

Locke: *Essay*, Bk II, ch. 27

Leibniz, *New Essays on Human Understanding*, Bk II, ch. 27

Mackie, ch. 6

Further readings

Butler 'Of Personal Identity', in: J. Perry (ed.) *Personal Identity*

Wiggins, D. *Sameness and Substance*, ch.6

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- The first paragraph of your essay must state the main thesis for which you wish to argue in the essay.
- The last paragraph of the essay must restate the main thesis, summarise the way in which you have argued for it, and indicate any outstanding problems.