Phil 100C: The Empiricists
Spring, 2019

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:20–6:55pm, Steven. Acad. 175

Contact Information

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Course Requirements

Participation in discussion sections (good participation will be possible grounds for raising course grade, especially if it is on a borderline).

“Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a short take-home multiple choice quiz), due most class days (all exercises together are worth 35% of the final grade; graded heavily on a curve). These will be made available on-line via the “Tests & Quizzes” tool on Canvas.

Two short papers (2–3 pages), due Monday, April 29 and Monday, May 20

One longer paper (6–8 pages) (worth 35% of the final grade). The paper is due Tuesday, June 11, but an introductory paragraph and brief outline

1Please feel free to contact the instructor and/or your TA with questions about the substance of the course (philosophical issues, questions about the meaning of the texts, questions about paper topics, etc.). On administrative issues (grades, lateness/extensions, due dates, section times, etc.) please try your TA first.
are due at some time on or before Tuesday, June 4. There will then be special section meetings, including perhaps extra meetings, at which you can get feedback on these plans from your TA and fellow students. This preliminary assignment will not be separately graded, but if you do not hand it in at all or if it is wholly unsatisfactory, your grade on the final paper will be reduced by one half step (e.g. A to A-).

All paper assignments are available on-line, and there are links to them from this syllabus as well as from my main course page. I will discuss the assignments in class when the due date draws near. You can find answers to some commonly asked questions about my assignments and grading in my FAQ.

Papers are to be handed in, as attachments, via the “Assignments” tool on Canvas. Please submit in MSWord format (.doc or .docx), or in a format easily convertible to MSWord (e.g., plain text or RTF). The system will accept late submissions, but late papers may not receive full credit. The system is not set up to allow resubmissions: once you press the “submit” button, it will not let you change your response. If, however, you mistakenly submit something and want to change it, please contact me and I can make an exception.

As noted above, the ME’s will be accessed and submitted on-line via Canvas. (The system will accept late submissions, but credit — possibly reduced — will only be given up until the time that the correct answers are announced, either in section or on-line.)

All assignments are due by 11:55pm on the due date.

Texts


An older edition is available on Google Books and Wikisource. In addition, there is a LibriVox recording of Books I and II.

The text is available on Google Books and Wikisource among other places, and there is also a LibriVox recording.


The text, together with that of the other Enquiry, is available on Google and Wikisource and there is also a LibriVox recording.


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The readings are all from Book I, contained in Volume I of the text available on Google Books and LibriVox; both volumes together are available on Wikisource.

The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine, and they will also be put on reserve at McHenry.

**Readings**

Tuesday, April 2: (no reading, first class).


Thursday, April 11: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XII (all); ch. XIII, §§1–14; ch. XIV, §§1–6 and 17; ch. XVI, §§1–5; ch. XVII, §§1–3, 7–8, 12, and 15; ME #1 due.

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2 The symbol § stands for “section”; §§ means “sections.” If you are unsure (or a bit rusty) on how to read Roman numerals, used for the book and chapter numbers here, there is a handy guide on Wolfram MathWorld.
Tuesday, April 16: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XX, §§1–2 and 15–16; ch. XXI, §§1–14, 21–5, and 29; ch. XXII, §§1–4; ch. XXIII, §§1–12; ch. XXV (all); ch. XXVI, §§1–2; ch. XXVII, §§1–3, 9–10, and 26. ME #2 due.

Thursday, April 18: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XXVIII, §§4–10; ch. XXIX, §§1–6; ch. XXXI (all); and ch. XXXIII, §§1–8 and §17. ME #3 due.


Monday, April 29: **First paper due.**

Tuesday, April 30: Locke, *Essay*, Book IV, ch.’s VIII–IX (all); ch. X, §§1–11; ch. XI, §§1–4, 8, 12–13; ch. XIV (all); ch. XVII, §§1–3, 5–13; ch. XVIII (all). ME #4 due.


Tuesday, May 7: Berkeley, *Principles*, §§1–84 (pp. 23–56). No ME due.


Tuesday, May 14: Hume, *First Enquiry*, §§1–4. ME #7 due.


Monday, May 20: **Second paper due.** No ME due.


Thursday, May 30: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part IV, §§6–7; Appendix, from “I had entertain’d some hopes” through “that will reconcile those contradictions.” ME #11 due.

Tuesday, June 4: Hume, *Second Enquiry* (i.e., *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*) §§I–IV. **Introductory paragraph and outline of final paper due.** No ME due.


Tuesday, June 11: **Final paper due.**