

Phil 100C: The Empiricists
Spring, 2020

Monday and Wednesday, 5:20–6:55pm

Contact Information

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu)¹
Website: <https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses>
Zoom class meeting: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/222341598>
Zoom office hours: Mon. 12 noon–1:00pm; Tues. 2:00–3:00pm

Teaching Assistants:

Sean Hunter (g.s.hunter@gmail.com)
Zoom office hours: Tues. 5–6pm, Thurs. 2–3pm
Ana Pedroso (apedroso@ucsc.edu)
Zoom office hours: Fri. 1:30–2:30pm and 4–5pm

Course Requirements

Participation in class discussion, worth 10% of the course grade. This will be conducted via the Discussion tool on Canvas. Each Sunday night (beginning Sunday April 5th), the TA's will post a passage from the coming week's reading. Between that time and Thursday night of that week, every student is required (1) to post at least one question about this text and (2) to respond to at least one other student's question. The questions do not have to be complicated or profound, and the responses do not have to be long or contain any definitive answers, but both should show at least some thought about/attempt to understand the text. Your TA will check to make sure your question and answer meet this criterion (not intended to be a high bar at all).

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.

If you fulfill this requirement in at least seven out of the nine weeks (that is, if you post at least one question in seven out of the nine weeks and answer at least one question in at least seven out of the nine weeks — not necessarily the same seven weeks), your grade for this component of the course will be A. If you fall short of that, your grade will be lower, on a scale to be determined. Needless to say: if technical, health, or other problems prevent you from participation (for more than two weeks), you should contact me or your TA about alternative arrangements.

The above is the minimum requirement for participation. You are encouraged to discuss further! Especially good participation will be a ground for raising your grade if it is near a borderline.

There will not be live Zoom discussion sections, but the TA's will hold Zoom office hours, at times to be announced soon.

There *will* be live Zoom lectures at the scheduled course time. Live attendance at these is not required (in general, I never require attendance at my lectures), but I highly advise you to attend if possible. It will be difficult for me to teach if there is no live audience at all. However, all lectures will also be recorded and made available for viewing later (on YouTube). Links to the recorded lectures will appear on this syllabus as they are put up.

“Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a short take-home multiple choice quiz), due most class days (all exercises together are worth 30% 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 Thursday, April 23 and Thursday, May 14, each worth 15% of the final grade.

One longer paper (4–8 pages) (worth 30% of the final grade). The paper is due Tuesday, June 9, but an introductory paragraph and brief outline (approximately one sentence per paragraph of the proposed complete paper) are due at some time on or before Monday, June 1. 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 be 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 (<https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses/faq.html>).

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.

I understand that conditions may be difficult and will be flexible about due dates, etc., if necessary. But please try to hand in work on time if you possibly can (keep in mind that the TA’s, who have to grade your work, are also working under unusual stress).

Texts

Locke, *An Essay concerning Human Understanding* (Penguin, 1998) (ISBN: 0140434828).

An older edition is available on Google Books and Wikisource. In addition, there are the following LibriVox recordings: books I and II; book II (alternate); book III; book IV.

Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (Hackett, 1993) (ISBN: 0915145391).

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

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (2d ed., Hackett, 1993) (ISBN: 0872202291).

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

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (Hackett, 1983) (ISBN: 0915145456).

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

Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Oxford, 2000) (ISBN: 0198751729).

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.

These texts can be ordered through the Bay Tree Bookstore.

Readings

Monday, March 30: (no reading, first class). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, April 1: Locke, *Essay*, Book I, ch. I, §² 8; ch. II, §§1–5 and 15–16; ch. III, §§1–8; ch. IV, §§1–8 and 17–18; Book II, ch. I, §§1–6 and 23–5, and ch. II (all). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, April 6: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch.'s IV, VI, and VII (all); ch. VIII, §§7–26; ch. IX, §§1–4 and 11–15; ch. X, §§1–2; ch. XI, §§1–10. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, April 7: 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. (Lecture on YouTube.)

²The 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.

Wednesday, April 8: **No class**, Passover eve. ME #1 due.

Monday, April 13: 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. (Sorry, this lecture was not recorded, I forgot to press RECORD!)

Tuesday, April 14: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XXVIII, §§4–10; ch. XXIX, §§1–6; ch. XXXI (all); and ch. XXXIII, §§1–8 and §17. (**Note:** on this date, the live Zoom lecture will be 11:20–12:55pm.) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, April 15: **No class** due to the seventh day of Passover. ME#3 due.

Monday, April 20: Locke, *Essay*, Book III, ch. I, §§1–2; ch. II (all); ch. III, §§1–8, 11–12, 15–18; ch. IV, §§1–7; ch. VI, §§1–10, 28–30, 33, 39; ch. IX, §§15–16; ch. X, §§1–10, 14, 17–18, 34. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, April 22: Locke, *Essay*, Book IV, ch. I (all); ch. II, §§1–7, 14–15; ch. III, §§1–21; ch. IV, §§1–13; ch. VI, §§1–9; ch. VII, §§1–3. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, April 23: **First paper due.**

Monday, April 27: 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. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, April 29: Berkeley, *Principles*, Introduction (pp. 7–23). ME #5 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 4: Berkeley, *Principles*, §§1–84 (pp. 23–56). No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 6: Berkeley, *Principles*, §§85–end (pp. 56–87). ME #6 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 11: Hume, *First Enquiry*, §§1–4. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 13: Hume, *First Enquiry*, §§5–7. ME #7 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 14: **Second paper due.**

Monday, May 18: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part II. ME #8 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 20: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part IV, §§1–2. ME #9 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 25: **No class (Memorial Day)**

Wednesday, May 27: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part IV, §§3–4 and §7; Appendix, from “I had entertain’d some hopes” through “that will reconcile those contradictions.” ME #10 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, June 1: Hume, *Second Enquiry* (i.e., *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*) §§I–IV. **Introductory paragraph and outline of final paper due.** No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, June 3: Hume, *Second Enquiry* §§V and IX. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, June 9: **Final paper due.**