

Phil 100C: The Empiricists
Spring, 2023

Tuesday and Thursday, 7:10–8:45pm, PhysSciences 114

Contact Information

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu)¹

Office: Cowell Annex A-106

Push notification: Notify Abe (<http://notifyabe1.appspot.com>)

Website: <https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses>

Zoom class meeting: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/94126704277?pwd=NzYyZ0w1Q2xxNkV4ek51S2ErUX>

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm (in person)

Zoom office hours: Mon. 10–11:00am; Tues. 2:00–3:00pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants:

Chelsea Qu (cqu8@ucsc.edu)

Office hours: By appointment.

Kelvin Villegas (kevilleg@ucsc.edu)

Office hours: By appointment.

Discussion Sections

Section	Time	Place	TA
A	Mon. 7:10–8:15pm	Hum & Soc. Sci. 350	Chelsea
B	Tue. 8:00–9:05am	Zoom	Kelvin
C	Wed. 4:00–5:05pm	Soc. Sci. 2 165	Chelsea
D	Wed. 5:20–6:25pm	Zoom	Kelvin

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.

Course Description

We will read (large parts of) some of the fundamental texts of the school known as British Empiricism.

Modality: In general, I will lecture in person in our assigned classroom, though I plan also to live-stream every lecture over Zoom. Due to the very inconvenient Jewish holiday schedule this year, there will, however, also be **four lectures at unusual times, via Zoom only:** two on Mondays (4/10 and 4/17) and two on regular class days (Tuesday 4/11 and Thursday 5/25) (see the readings schedule below for further details). I will also make a recording of every lecture available on YouTube. Office hours will be via Zoom only.

Course Requirements

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

Attendance at lectures (either in person or via Zoom) is not required, but is highly recommended. Second best is to watch the recorded lectures on YouTube. Links to the recorded lectures will also appear on this syllabus as they are put up.

“Metaphysics exercises” (kind of a short take-home multiple choice quiz), due on about half the 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 Monday, May 1 and Monday, May 22, each worth 15% of the final grade. One longer paper (6–8 pages) (worth 30% of the final grade). The paper is due Wednesday, June 14, 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 Tuesday, June 6. Feedback on this will be provided by a mechanism yet to be determined. 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, or in a format easily convertible to MSWord. 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.)

Please do not plagiarize. If you do and I catch you, you will receive no credit for the assignment and may fail the course, and you will also be subject to “disciplinary sanctions” from the University. (In contrast: if you hand in a paper consisting mostly of quotes from or paraphrases of other sources you have consulted, properly cited, you will not get a good grade — a good paper will contain your own interpretations and thoughts — but you will not fail, either.) If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or how to avoid it, you can ask me, or consult the resources listed on the Library website.² For possible consequences of plagiarism, see the Academic Misconduct Policy.³

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

Texts

Locke, *An Essay concerning Human Understanding* (Penguin, 1998) (ISBN: 978-0140434828).

An older edition is available on Google Books and on Wikisource (Book I;

²<https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/citesources/plagiarism>.

³https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct.

Book II; Book III; Book IV). 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: 978-0915145393).

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: 978-0872202290).

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* (Penguin, 1986) (ISBN: 978-0140432442).

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 can be ordered and/or purchased as e-books at the UCSC Bookstore (Akademos), and are also on reserve at McHenry.

Readings

Tuesday, April 4: (no reading, first class). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, April 6: **No class** due to the first day of Passover.

Monday, April 10: **5:20–6:55pm, via Zoom only.** Locke, *Essay*, Book I, ch. I, §⁴ 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.)

⁴The 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 11: **1:30–3:05pm, via Zoom only.** 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.)

Thursday, April 13: **No class**, due to the eighth day of Passover.

Monday, April 17: **5:20–6:55pm, via Zoom only.** Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XII (all); ch. XIII, §§1–14 and 19; ch. XIV, §§1–6 and 17; ch. XVI, §§1–5; ch. XVII, §§1–3, 7–8, 12, and 15. ME #1 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, April 18: 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, 8–10, and 26. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, April 20: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, ch. XXVIII, §§4–11; ch. XXIX, §§1–6; ch. XXXI (all); and ch. XXXIII, §§1–8 and §17. ME #2 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, April 25: 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. ME#3 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, April 27: 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 and 15–16. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 1: **First paper due.**

Tuesday, May 2: 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.)

Thursday, May 4: Berkeley, *Principles*, Introduction (pp. 7–23). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, May 9: Berkeley, *Principles*, §§1–84 (pp. 23–56). ME #5 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 11: Berkeley, *Principles*, §§85–end (pp. 56–87). ME #6 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, May 16: Hume, *First Enquiry* (i.e., *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*), §§1–4. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 18: Hume, *First Enquiry*, §§5–7. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 22: **Second paper due.**

Tuesday, May 23: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part II. ME #7 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 25: **3:20–4:55pm, via Zoom only.** Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part IV, §§1–2. ME #8 due. (The unusual time is due to Shavuot, which begins this evening.) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, May 30: Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, Part IV, §§3–5. ME #9 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, June 1: Hume, *Treatise*, Part IV, §§6–7; Appendix, from “I had entertain’d some hopes” through “that will reconcile those contradictions.” ME #10 due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, June 6: *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.)

Thursday, June 8: Hume, *Second Enquiry* §§V and IX. No ME due. (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, June 14: **Final paper due.**