

***PHILOSOPHY 308 (A01): THE EMPIRICISTS [12529]***  
*FALL 2018*

**Class times**

Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:20pm, CLE (Cleari(

**Texts:**

There are three required texts for the course. These are available from the University B

exist, and what makes a person the same person over time.

### **Expectations**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings, and prepared to talk and ask questions about the material. Students who miss a class are responsible for any material covered therein, as well as for finding out what announcements, if any, were made.

### **Three quick tips for doing well in the course**

1. *Come to class.* When you must miss a class, let the instructor know ahead of time if you can; afterwards, talk to a classmate about what happened and try to get their lecture notes; visit the instructor in office hours.
2. *Do the readings ahead of time, and read 'actively'* – pay attention to what you're reading, ask yourself what point(s) the author(s) is trying to make, why this matters, what questions you'd like to ask the author, and so on.
3. If you're having difficulty with any of the course material (readings or lecture content), speak to the instructor – *take advantage of scheduled office hours.*

### **Evaluation**

Students' grades will be based on:

- ! Two take-home exams on the readings and lecture materials, calling for short essay-style responses, worth 30% each. The take-home exams will be discussed more in class when the first topics are distributed.
- ! A number of short in-class quizzes (T/F, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc.), based on the readings and lecture materials. Together, the quizzes will be worth 10% of the course grade. Note that the quizzes will *not*, as a rule, be announced ahead of time.
- ! A final exam, worth 30% of the course grade. The final exam will be cumulative. It will be a combination of questions like those on the quizzes, short answer questions, and a choice of longer essay-style questions.

Contributions to class discussions may be taken into account in borderline cases – i.e., where a student's final grade is right on the dividing line between grades. Beyond the student's having adequately addressed the topic question(s) on which he/she writes, evaluation of students' written work will be based on: evidence of comprehension of the materials and issues addressed; evidence of original and critical thought with regard to that material; the extent to which the student stakes out a position and provides good reasons and arguments for it; the extent to which the student communicates his/her ideas clearly (using complete and grammatical sentences, correct terms, a clear structure, and so on). For the papers, *the use of outside materials (i.e., any readings not assigned for the course) is prohibited.*

The standard University grading scheme will be used. Here is an excerpt from it (the full version is here: <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>):

<b>Passing Grades</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Description</b>
A+	9	90 – 100	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
A	8	85 – 89	
A-	7	80 – 84	

Readings: *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690), Epistle to the Reader; Book I, Chapters I, II, and IV (= L, pp. 6-14, 43-65, 84-103)

**Week 3 (Sept. 17, 20): on the mind, ideas, primary and secondary qualities, space and time**

Readings: *Essay*, Book II, Chapters I-VIII, XII-XIV, XXXIII (= L, pp. 104-143, 163-196, 394-401)

**Week 4 (Sept. 23, 27): on power, freedom, substance and substances, personal identity**

Readings: *Essay* Book II, Chapters XXI §§1-50, XXIII, XXVII (= L, pp. 233-266, 295-317, 328-

Readings: Book 1, Part 3 § 16, Part 4 §§ 1-4 (= H, pp. 118-152)

**Week 13 (Nov. 26, 29): Hume, on the soul, personal identity, liberty and necessity; conclusion**

Readings: Book 1, Part 4 §§ 5-7, Book 2, Part 3 §§ 1-2, Appendix (= pp. 152-178, 257-265, 396-401)

**Week 14 (Dec. 3) [last day of classes = Dec. 5]: Final meeting - Review**

**\*Final exam:** The Term 1 exam period runs December 8-22. The date, time and location of the final exam will be announced once that has been decided.

**Some important administrative dates** (<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/general/dates.html>)

- ! Tues., Sept. 18: last day for 100% reduction of fees
- ! Fri., Sept. 21: last day to for adding first-term courses
- ! Tues., Oct. 9: last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees. 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
- ! Wed., Oct. 31: last day for withdrawing from second-term courses without penalty of failure