

PHILOSOPHY 308 A01
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. J.O. Young

Office: CLE B324

Telephone: 250-721-7509

E-mail: joy@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Texts: John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues*
David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*

These books are available for purchase in the University bookstore. However, they are also available online as follows:

Locke: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/LocHuma.html>

Hume: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4705>

Berkeley, *Principles*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4723>

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4724>

Course Objectives:

To provide students with a knowledge of the epistemological and metaphysical views of the principal members of the empiricist school; to provide students with an appreciation of the continuing philosophical significance of these views; to cultivate philosophical acuity.

Grading:

Students will write two essays: one essay on either Locke or Berkeley and one essay on Hume. Students will be provided with suggested essay topics. Each essay will be

essay will be characterised by clear, grammatical prose and careful exegesis. It will display an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the positions discussed. It will state a thesis and provide valid arguments for it. A first class essay will also contain your own efforts to grapple with philosophical issues and to arrive at your own solutions. Students are discouraged from making extensive use of secondary sources. Their own reasoned reflections are more important than a survey of the extant literature.

After the deadlines, essays will be accepted without penalty for seven days. If papers are submitted after the deadline, without a good reason, the instructor will not feel under an obligation to provide extensive written comments on them. No papers will be accepted more than seven days after the deadline. Exceptions will be made only in cases of **properly documented** illness or personal crisis. Requests for exceptions must be received in writing and **no more than seven days after the deadline**.

Students will receive a final grade out of 100 points. Numbers will be converted to a letter grade in accordance with the following scale: 90-100=A+; 85-89=A; 80-84=A-; 77-79=B+; 73-76=B; 70-72=B-; 65-69=C+; 60-64=C; 50-59= D; 0-49=F. Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and are eligible to receive a passing final grade:

Essay 1

Essay 2

Four of the eight surprise quizzes

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. An N is a failing grade, and it factors into a student's GPA as O. The maximum percentage that can accompany an N percentage that

Readings: *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, Epistle to the Reader

Week Two: 8 and 11 January

Topic: Origin of ideas and critique of innate ideas
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. I, Ch. I, II and IV

Week Three: 15 and 18 January

Topic: Simple and complex ideas; primary and secondary qualities; space and time
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. I-IV, VIII, XII, XIII and XIV

Week Four: 22 and 25 January

Topic: Power; human freedom; substance
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XIII, XIV, Ch. XXI, §§ 1 - 50, XXIII

Week Five: 29 January and 1 February

Topic: Identity; types and extent of knowledge
Readings: *Essay*, Bk. II, Ch. XXVII; Bk. IV, Ch. I – V, IX-XI

Week Six: 5 and 8 February

Topic: Critique of abstract general ideas; immaterialism
Readings: Berkeley, *Principles*

Week Seven: Reading Break

Week Eight: 19 and 22 February

Topic: Berkeley on God and finite souls
Readings: *Three Dialogues*
Assignment: First essay due 11:15 a.m., 19 February

Week Nine: 26 February and 1 March

Topic: Introduction to Hume; origins of ideas; space and time
Readings: *Treatise of Human Nature*, Introduction, Bk. I

Week Ten: 5 and 8 March

Topic: Existence, external existence, causality
Readings: *Treatise*, Bk. II

