

*PHIL 427 (A01) ADVANCED STUDIES IN EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY [23769]/
PHIL 500 (A02) TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: THOMAS REID [22425]*

Monday & Thursday: 1:00-2:20pm, Clearihue B315

Patrick Rysiew

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This course is about the philosophical theories of Thomas Reid (1710-96). Reid was a contemporary of both Hume and Kant. Like Kant, Reid said that Hume's writings were the main

Students' grades will be based on:

useful criteria for optimal performance on this component easily articulated. Students are expected to be regular, active, and thoughtful participants in the life of the course. Bear in mind that this is an advanced course, that a good portion of class time will be devoted to discussion, and that much of what you learn in the course will be from other students. For this reason alone, and quite apart from issues about grades, it is in your own interest to read the material ahead of time, to be prepared and willing to talk about it in class, to actively participate in the course, to intend your in-class comments and questions to be ultimately constructive and helpful, and so on.

In general, 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

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. It is each student's responsibility to know the University's regulations in this regard. The Policy on Academic Integrity is published in the University Calendar.²

Learning is the office designated to make arrangements for accommodations. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning's website.¹⁰

Week 2 (Jan. 17, 20): Reid's method of investigation; the primacy of common sense; his critique of the way of ideas

- Reid: IHM 1; EIP 1, 2.14; "Oration III" (1759)

Week 3 (Jan. 24, 27): Sensation and perception: Reid's distinction; the role of sensation in perception

- Reid: IHM 2-4; EIP 1.1, 2.5, 2.16
- Todd, "Thomas Reid's Semiotic"
- Chappell, "The Theory of Sensations"
- Duggan's Introduction to IHM

Week 4 (Jan. 31, Feb. 3): Primary and Secondary Qualities: Locke and Berkeley on the distinction; Reid's way of drawing it

- Reid: IHM 5, EIP 2.17
- excerpt from Locke (*Essay*)
- excerpt from Berkeley (*Three Dialogues*)

Week 5 (Feb. 7, 10): Reid's Nativism: Nativism vs. empiricism; 'natural signs'; Reid's arguments for nativism; the role of nativism in combating scepticism; nativism and 'innate ideas'

- Reid: IHM 6.1-6.7; EIP through 2.22¹¹
- the Hume-Reid exchange in the *Inquiry*, Brookes, ed. (pp. 255-65)
- Wright, "Hume vs. Reid on Ideas: The New Hume Letter"
- excerpt from Leibniz

Week 6 (Feb. 14, 17): Direct and indirect realism: Different senses of 'direct'; strategies for securing direct realism; whether Reid succumbs to 'the way of ideas' himself; whether acquired perception is direct; whether 'acquired perception' is perception

- Reid: sections on acquired perception – IHM 6.20-23, EIP 2.21-22
- Van Cleve, "Reid's Theory of Perception"

****Feb. 21-25: No classes - Reading break****

Week 7 (Feb. 28, March 3): Vision – Visible Figure, The Geometry of Visibles

- Reid: IHM 6.8-19 (less important: 6.14-16, 6.18-19)
- Daniels, Chapter 1 (*Thomas Reid's 'Inquiry': The Geometry of Visibles and the Case for Realism*)
- *optional: Brookes, 272-7, 318-9*

Week 8 (March 7, 10): Reid's Epistemology: what is common sense?; the status of 'first principles'; Reid's theory of evidence; locating Reid with respect to foundationalism-vs-coherentism, internalism-vs-externalism, reliabilism, and naturalism; the epistemology of

¹¹ If you have been keeping pace with the readings, by now you have already read EIP 1, 2.5, 2.14, 2.16, and 2.17. Among the remaining portions of EIP Essay 2, the

