

18th Century Philosophy

SYLLABUS (v2)

Course Info

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Fry, rfry@siue.edu

MEETING TIME: M/W, 12:00-1:15PM, Peck Hall 2412

OFFICE HOURS: M/W 1:30-2:30PM, Peck Hall 3210

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 18th century constitutes the culmination of the Early Modern philosophical project for Western philosophy. It sees thinkers capitalizing on and undermining the fundamental insights that began to surface in the 1600's. In this course we will look at key philosophical texts from the period, examining problems they raise and the solutions they offer related to what we know, how we think, and how those two questions are related. (We will not be examining ethical questions, that is, questions about how we should act.) This course is reading-intensive and emphasizes philosophical writing, so you will be expected to write regularly and well.

COURSE GOALS

This course has several goals:

- Introduce you to classic texts in the history of Western philosophy
- Introduce you to perennial philosophical issues related to cognition, skepticism and science
- Improve your analytical reading and writing skills
- Develop skills essential to academic research, particularly in philosophy
- Develop essential life skills such as time management, communication when encountering difficulties, and thoughtful engagement with others

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Berkeley, *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, (Principles), ed. Winkler
- Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, ed. Adams
- Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, (Treatise) ed. Norton & Norton
- Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, (EHU) ed. Steinberg
- Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, ed. Hatfield

Other readings will be posted to Blackboard throughout the semester.

Policies

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND PLAGIARISM

- You are expected and required to uphold SIUE's standards of academic honesty
- **Plagiarism of ideas or words is unacceptable.**
- Confirmed academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course.
- Familiarize yourself with what counts as plagiarism and SIUE's policies:
 - <http://www.siu.edu/lovejoylibrary/services/instruction/plagiarism.shtml>,
 - <http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>

PERSONAL CONDUCT

- You are responsible for arriving on time, being prepared, and comporting yourself in an appropriate manner. This means treating your classmates with respect and courtesy.
- *You are responsible for helping to foster a safe and productive learning environment.*
 - Some of the topics we will address this semester may provoke powerful emotions, so be mindful of how topics under discussion may differently impact members of the class.

PREPAREDNESS AND ATTENDANCE

- Preparedness includes *reading and bringing* the assigned material and participating actively—both asking and answering questions—in discussion.
- You are expected to bring the assigned reading to each class meeting. Laptops/tablets will only be permitted when readings are distributed electronically.

GRADES

- **LATE WORK:** For each 24 hours late after the due date for a piece of written work is submitted, 3% will be subtracted from whatever grade it earns.
 - All work more than a week late will receive an F.
- **EXTENSIONS:** If you need an extension, email me with a brief description of your situation.
 - If I approve an extension, we will work out an appropriate timeframe.
 - Extensions must be requested at least 24 hours before the assignment is due.
- **GRADE APPEALS:** If you believe your work deserves a different grade than it received, you may ask in writing for reconsideration.
 - Submit this request within one week but no sooner than one day after work is returned.
 - Your written request must explain why you believe the work deserves a different grade.
 - Please note that if a change is made, the new grade may be either higher or lower.

CHANGES

- I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus at any time.
- Changes will be announced in class and a new version of the syllabus posted to Blackboard.

Assignments and Assessment

More details about these assignments will be distributed online and in class throughout the semester.

READING ENGAGEMENT (20%)

- A 200-300 word summary of a *single* argument from the texts assigned for that meeting
- Should also include a single, clear question about the course content for the day
- Due each Monday, starting January 22nd
- You will determine which argument and how to best capture it in the space allowed
- Your worst two will not count toward your final grade

SHORT WRITINGS (25%)

- Two short (1200-1500 word) writing assignments asking you to explain arguments in depth and consider objections
- These papers build on the skills from the reading engagement papers and help you develop the skills needed for the final paper, increasing your ability to interpret and engage with texts
- The better of these two will count for 15% of your final grade, the other for 10%

FINAL PAPER AND ITS OUTLINE (30%+10%)

- Final paper:
 - Due at the end of the semester, a 10-12 page paper that considers a substantive interpretive or philosophical problem related to the texts we've discussed in the course
 - This paper is worth 30% of your final grade
- Outline:
 - A few weeks before the end of the course, submit an outline of your final paper
 - I will approve your topic and give comments
 - This outline will substantively illustrate the main points you will make in the final paper and serve as a template for completing the final paper
 - This outline is worth 10% of your final grade

PRESENTATION REPORT (5%)

- A 200-300 word summary of a presentation by a professional philosopher of Modern
- April 20th and 21st, the *Early Modern—Saint Louis* conference takes place in downtown STL
 - Conference sessions are one hour and run Friday afternoon and all day Saturday
- We'll discuss these in class on April 23rd

PARTICIPATION AND COMPORMENT (10%)

- This grade includes reading *and bringing* assigned material, arriving on time, and participating
- You can also participate by coming to office hours or emailing me
- Not coming to class, sleeping, not bringing assigned readings, arriving late, acting disrespectfully to me or your peers (by, e.g., having your phone out), &c., will lose you points

Calendar with Topics and Readings

You are expected to read this material before the class-day it is listed under.

1: INTRODUCTIONS

08 Jan - Intro to the Course

If you've not had philosophy before, read:

Scruton - History of Philosophy (BB)

If you've not done 17th Century (PHIL 307), read:

Scruton - Locke (BB)

All: Schneiders - Concepts of Philosophy (BB)

2: BERKELEY

10 Jan - Matter is inconceivable

Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, 1st dialogue, p.7-30

17 Jan - Matter is inconceivable, cont.

Three Dialogues..., 1st dialogue, p.30-42

22 Jan - Matter is explanatorily inert

Three Dialogues..., 2nd dialogue, all

24 Jan - Idealism is the common view

Three Dialogues..., 3rd dialogue, p.61-68

29 Jan - Idealism is the common view

Three Dialogues..., 3rd dialogue, p.69-94

3: HUME

31 Jan - Science of Humankind, the nature of ideas

Treatise of Human Nature, Intro

Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, sect. 2

05 Feb - Worries concerning reason

Enquiry 3.1-3 and 4ptI

07 Feb - Worries concerning reason, cont.

Enquiry 4ptII

3: HUME (CONTINUED)

12 Feb - Resolution of these worries

Enquiry 5ptI

Treatise 1.3.6

14 Feb - Resolution of these worries, cont.

Enquiry 5ptII

Treatise 1.3.7-8

19 Feb - Animal intelligence

Enquiry 9

Treatise 1.3.16

21 Feb - Miracles

Enquiry 10

Short Writing #1 due before 11:59PM

26 Feb - Skepticism

Treatise 1.4.1

Enquiry 12

28 Feb - Identity

Treatise 1.4.2

Treatise 1.4.6

4: REID

12 Mar - Reid on identity and Humean skepticism

Essays on the Intellectual Powers 3.4 ('Identity'),

Essays on the Intellectual Powers 7.4 ('Hume's scepticism with regard to reason')

14 Mar - Reid's critiques of Hume and others

Inquiry into the Human Mind, Ch.1 and 7 (BB)

5: SHEPHERD

19 Mar - Critiques of Hume and Berkeley

Essay on the Academic or Sceptical Philosophy, Chapters 1 and 2 (BB)

5: SHEPHERD (CONT.)

21 Mar - Critique of Hume on Miracles

“That Human Testimony is Sufficient Force to Establish the Credibility of Miracles” (BB)

6: LA METTRIE

26 Mar - Humans and Animals are Mechanical

Man/Machine, p.1-17 (BB)

28 Mar - Humans and Animals are Mechanical, cont.

Man/Machine, p.17-34 (BB)

Short Writing #2 due before 11:59PM

7: KANT

02 Apr - Sensation, Understanding, Categories

Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics Preface, Preamble, I (through p.286)

04 Apr - Sensation, Understanding, Categories, cont.

Prolegomena I (all)

09 Apr - Transcendental Idealism

Prolegomena II (through p.314)

11 Apr - Transcendental Idealism, cont.

Prolegomena II (all)

Outline due before 11:59PM

16 Apr - Freedom and the Soul

Prolegomena III (all)

18 Apr - Critique of Metaphysics

Prolegomena III and Conclusion

8: WRAP UP

23 Apr - Discussion of EM—STL

no new reading

25 Apr - Wrap up

no new reading

Resources

PHILOSOPHICAL RESOURCES

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu>

Philpapers.org: <http://philpapers.org>

Tips on Writing a Philosophy Paper: <http://goo.gl/iDzgFb>

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Disability Support Services: Student Success Center, Room 1270
<http://www.siue.edu/dss/> and disabilitysupport@siue.edu

Provides accommodations to disabled students. DSS also has services which students can use to increase skills in learning, time management, and test-taking.

Instructional Services: <http://www.siue.edu/is/>

Provides instructional support unit for the students, faculty and staff. Helps the underprepared to prepare, the prepared to advance, and the advanced to excel.

Writing Center: in the Academic Advancement Center, <http://www.siue.edu/is/writing/>

The writing center assists you as you analyze your paper and explore ways to improve it. Our primary concern is to help you become a better writer. To do this, we challenge you to learn more about composition and the conventions of Standard English.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

Counseling Services: Student Success Center room 0222, <http://www.siue.edu/counseling/>
Provides individual counseling, counseling groups, healthy living workshops, consultations, and referrals. Special attention is paid to the ongoing issues affecting college students.

Student Health Clinic Services: Student Success Center room 0222,
<http://www.siue.edu/healthservice/clinic/index.shtml>