

PHIL 204 – Empiricism (Spring 2013)

Instructor: I. Aranyosi

Description/aim: to introduce the student to the main figures and topics in British Empiricism.

Readings:

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Evaluation: three (3) in-class closed book exams (30%), oral presentation (20%), term paper (25%), homework (15%), in-class participation (10%).

Reading schedule:

Week 1 (Feb. 4 – 10): INTRODUCTION

Weeks 2–7: LOCKE,

AN ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/locke_understanding.html

Week 2 (Feb. 11 – 17): Innate Knowledge

Book I:

Chapter 1 – student 1.

Chapter 2 (sections 1–8), Chapter 3 (sections 7–18) – student 2.

Week 3 (Feb. 18 – 24): Theory of Ideas, I (ideas in general, simple ideas)

Book II:

Chapter 1 – student 3.

Chapters 2–8 – student 4.

Week 4 (Feb. 25 – Mar. 3): Language (real and nominal essence)

Book III: chapter 3, chapter 6 (sections 1–9) – student 5.

Week 5 (Mar. 4 – 10): Theory of Ideas, III (primary and secondary qualities)

Book II:

Chapter 23 – student 6.

Chapter 31 (section 6–13) – student 7.

Week 6 (Mar. 11 – 17): Theory of Ideas, IV (powers and freedom)

Book II: chapter 21 – student 8 & 9.

Week 7 (Mar. 18 – 24): review + 2 hour closed book exam from Locke.

Weeks 8–10: BERKELEY,

A TREATISE CONCERNING THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/projects/digitexts/berkeley/knowledge/knowledge.txt>

Week 8 (Mar. 25 – 31): Abstract Ideas

Introduction – student 10

Week 9 (Apr. 1 – 7): Matter and sense

Sections 1–24 – student 11

Week 10 (Apr. 8 – 14): review + 2 hour closed book exam from Berkeley.

Weeks 11–14: HUME,

AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/projects/digitexts/hume/enquiry/enqhum.txt>

Week 11 (Apr. 15 – 21): Epistemology

Sceptical doubts: Section 4 – student 12

Sceptical solutions: Section 5 – student 13

Week 12 (Apr. 22 – 28): Metaphysics

Causation: Section 7 – student 14

Liberty and necessity: Section 8 – student 15

Week 13 (Apr. 29 – May 5): Philosophy of Religion

Miracles: Section 10 – student 16

Providence: Section 11 – student 17

Week 14 (May 6 – 12): review + 2 hour closed book exam from Hume.