Philosophy Honours: Early Modern Philosophy
Autumn Semester 2018

Course Organiser: Dr Andrew Mason
Email: A.S.Mason@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: (0131) 6511843
Office Hour: 2.00-3.30 Monday (6.10, DSB – Adam Smith Room)

Course Secretary: Ms Ann-Marie Cowe
Email: philinfo@ed.ac.uk

Description
The course focuses each year on a central author, group or theme in the philosophy of the 17th and 18th centuries, exploring a number of major topics and debates. This year the course will introduce the thought of Edinburgh’s leading philosopher, David Hume. Topics covered include Hume’s theory of the mind, causation and causal inference, freedom and necessity, religious belief, scepticism, the nature of moral judgement, virtue and justice.

The course consists of two weekly lectures (10.00-10.50 Monday, and 11.10-12.00 Tuesday), and a weekly tutorial (times TBA, starting in week 2). Tutorials will move a week behind lectures, covering material that was discussed in lectures in the previous week. In tutorials, students will be invited to give brief introductions of passages from the reading; a list of tutorial readings will be published at the start of the semester.

Assessment
Assessment consists of a midterm essay of 1500 words (40%) and an end-of-semester take-home test (60%).

Suggested topics for the midterm essay will be posted on Learn at the beginning of Week 3: students may write on other topics with the approval of the course organiser. The essay is due on Thursday 25th October at 12.00 noon.

The take-home test will be issued on Monday 3rd December, and is due on Thursday 6th December at 12.00 noon.

Reading.
The principal reading for the course is Hume’s *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (often called the First Enquiry) and *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, along with some extracts from the *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. Reference will also be made to Hume’s *Treatise of Human Nature*, but this is not required reading.

Online editions of Hume’s works may be found at
There are numerous printed editions of the *Enquiries*, some of which are also available online through the Library catalogue, including ones by T. Beauchamp and P. Nidditch. There is an older edition by L.A. Selby-Bigge.

The *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* is available in a number of editions including ones by N. Kemp Smith (Oxford) and by M. Bell (Penguin).

The most up-to-date edition of the *Treatise* is by D.F. Norton and M.J. Norton (Oxford). There is an older edition by L.A. Selby-Bigge.

In discussing material covered by both the *Treatise* and the *Enquiry*, many commentators focus on the *Treatise* version; read with care.

Recommended secondary reading includes:
B. Stroud, *Hume*.
T. Penelhum, *Hume*.
H. Noonan, *Hume on Knowledge*.
A. Flew, *Hume’s Philosophy of Belief* (a work especially about the *First Enquiry*).
J. Jenkins, *Understanding Hume*.
J. Gaskin, *Hume’s Philosophy of Religion*.
J. Bennett: *Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Central Themes*.
V. Hope. *Virtue by Consensus; the Moral Philosophy of Hutcheson, Hume and Adam Smith*.
J. Baillie. *Hume on Morality*.
J.L. Mackie. *Hume’s Moral Theory*.
P. Millican, ed. *Reading Hume on Human Understanding*.
S. Tweyman, ed. *Hume, Critical Assessments*.

Additional reading on specific topics may be recommended during the course.

**Schedule of Lectures.**

In general the lectures in each week will focus on one topic or closely-connected group of topics.

**Week 1 – Introduction: Hume’s Life and Thought: Impressions and Ideas**

*First Enquiry* 1-3.
See also *Treatise*, Introduction and I.1.1, 4 and 7: ‘My Own Life’.

**Week 2 – The Problem of Causal Inference**

*First Enquiry* 4-5: see also 6, 9.
See also *Treatise* I.3.1, 6-8 and 15.
Week 3 – The Idea of Necessity
First Enquiry 7.
See also Treatise I.3.14.

Week 4 – Liberty and Necessity
First Enquiry 8.
See also Treatise II.3.1-2.

Week 5 – Testimony and Miracles
First Enquiry 10.

Week 6 – Natural Religion
First Enquiry 11: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion 2-3

Week 7 – The External World: Hume’s Scepticism
First Enquiry 12.
See also Treatise I.4.2, 4 and 7.

Week 8 – Humanity and the Natural Virtues
Moral Enquiry 1, 2, 5, Appendix 4: see also 6-8.
See also Treatise III.3.1 and 6.

Week 9 – Justice: Self-love
Moral Enquiry 3, 4, 9, Appendices 2 and 3.
See also Treatise III..2.1-2, 5-6.

Week 10 – The Nature of Moral Judgement
Moral Enquiry Appendix 1: ‘A Dialogue’ (printed with the Moral Enquiry)
See also Treatise II.3.3. and III.1.1-2.

Week 11 (Monday) – Themes in Hume’s Thought
(no required reading)

Week 11 (Tuesday) – Question period for revision