

PHIL 4040 / 6040 British Empiricism
Spring 2008

Professor: Raymond Woller rwoller@uga.edu Office 127 Peabody	Phone: 542-2656 Hours: Monday , & Wednesday: 10:00 to 11:30 and 3:30 to 5:30 Friday 10:00 to 11:30 Tuesday & Thursday: 10:45 - 12:00 And by appointment
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- **Texts** (Texts are available at the Baxter St Bookstore):
 - Locke, John. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Ed. Peter H. Nidditch. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1975. (No other edition of Locke's *Essay* is acceptable; this is the standard edition.)
 - Mackie, J. L. *Problems from Locke*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976.
 - Any other reading will be available on the Course Website on WebCT.
- **Goals of the Course:** Since Locke, is the founder of British empiricism, and thereby set the stage for Anglo-American philosophy into the 21st Century, it is altogether appropriate for an advanced course on British empiricism to examine in detail the entire of Locke's major work, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. We will supplement our reading of the essay with Mackie's book on Locke's *Essay*.
- **Grades:** Your grade for the course is made up of the following three elements:
 - 10 short response papers each counting 5% of the course grade.
 - Class participation counting 20% of the course grade.
 - Attendance in very important; missing a class without a legitimate excuse will seriously affect your participation grade
 - Paper Project, 30% (paper proposal, 5%; paper 25%)
 - You should keep copies of all graded material that is returned to you in case there is an error in recording your grades.
- **Response Papers** are short 300-word weekly papers in which you critically analyze some issue that you find in the assigned reading. More specific instructions can be found under the Response Papers icon.
 - These papers must be in your own words. Using someone else's words is a violation of the university's honesty policy and has serious consequences. You are responsible for knowing what that policy entails. Check under the Academic Honesty Policy icon on the Course Homepage.
- **Paper Project:**
 - The paper project involves writing a paper proposal and when approved, writing the proposed paper which will be eight to ten (8 – 10) pages for undergraduates and ten to fifteen (10 – 15) pages for graduate students. See under the Paper Project icon on the Course Website.
 - Not only must you use your own words in this paper, even paraphrasing someone else's ideas must be footnoted. Failure to do so is to be in violation of the university's honesty policy and has serious consequences. See under the Academic Honesty Policy icon on the Course Homepage.

■ **Participation:**

- You will be expected to contribute actively in class discussion in every class by
 - Proposing interpretations of the text.
 - Criticizing interpretations offered by the professor or fellow classmates.
 - Asking questions.
 - Answering questions.
 - Talking about your response paper if asked.
- Contributing actively on the Discussions bulletin board on the Course Website is counts as participation.
- I will post participation grades four times during the course of the semester on the Course Website; your participation grade will be the average of these grades.

■ **Web Site:**

- Syllabus/Description is this document.
- Syllabus/Calendar is an up-to-date course Calendar indicating all the readings and paper project deadlines.
- Readings, mostly optional, can be found under the Readings icon on the Course Content page.
- Response Paper Guide gives some guidelines for writing these papers.
- The Bulletin Board, which you may use as part of your class participation. I may upload additional material of interest.
- Deadlines contains the datelines for the Paper Project.
- Paper Project explains what is involved in the paper project.
- Links contains some links that may be of use or interest to you.
- Intra-class mail is a e-mail system limited to the class. I use this if I need to contact you so forward it to the e-mail address that you use daily. You should also use it if no need to convey personal information to me.
- Academic Honesty: This links you to “A Culture of Honesty” which specifies university policy about academic honesty. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.
- My Grades is where I post your grades. Only you can see your grades.
- +/- Grading explains how I grade and assign plus and minus grades.

- **Office Hours:** You should avail yourself of my office hours whenever you feel it is necessary. You are not bothering me when you stop by to talk to me in my office.

New Events

January 2008

Date Event

Tuesday, January 8

1. Introduction

* Course Mechanics, Some basic concepts, & Pre-modern world-view.

Thursday, January 10

1. Overview of the Essay

* Have read

1. Forward to Nidditch edition, pp. vii-xxv.

2. Dedication and Epistle to the Reader, pp. 6-14.

3. Essay I.i. pp. 43-48.

Tuesday, January 15

1. Innate Ideas

* Have read Essay I.ii through I.liv, pp. 48-103.

Thursday, January 17

1. Innate Ideas

* Have read Mackie Chap 7, pp. 204-225.

Tuesday, January 22

1. No Class

Thursday, January 24

1. Simple Ideas

* Have read Essay II.i through II.xi. pp. 104-163.

Tuesday, January 29

1. Simple Ideas

* Have read Mackie, Chap. 1, pp. 9-36.

Thursday, January 31

1. Complex Ideas - Modes

* Have read Essay, II.xii. through II.xx. pp. 163-233, read this only to get an idea of what Locke has in mind by simple ideas.

February 2008

Date Event

Tuesday, February 5

1. Power

* Have read Essay, II.xxi. pp. 233-287. Attend primarily to the discussion of liberty and freedom.

Thursday, February 7

1. Mixed Modes & Ideas of Substances

* Have read Essay, II.xxii through II.xxvi, pp. 288-328.

Tuesday, February 12

1. Mackie

* Chap 3.1. through 3.4. pp. 72-85.

Thursday, February 14

1. Identity

* Have read Essay, II.xxvii.1. p. 328 & Mackie, pp. 140-172.

Tuesday, February 19

1. Personal Identity

* Have read Essay II.xxvii.2 to the end pp. 329-248.

Thursday, February 21

1. Mackie

* Chap 6 pp.173-203.

Tuesday, February 26

1. Misc & Language & Essences

* Have read Essay, II.xxviii through II.xxxiii. pp. 348-401.

Thursday, February 28

1. Misc & Language & Essences

* Essay, III.i. through III.iii. pp. 402-420.

March 2008

Date Event

Tuesday, March 4

1. Mackie

* Read Mackie, Chap. 3.5 through 3.7, pp. 86-106.

2. Deadlines

* 1. Paper Proposals due

2. 5pm deadline to withdraw with a "W."

Thursday, March 6

1. Language & Abstraction

* Have read Essay, III.iv. through III.vi, pp. 420-471.

Tuesday, March 11

1. Spring Break

Thursday, March 13

1. Spring Break

Tuesday, March 18

1. Language & Abstraction

* Have read Mackie, Chap 4, pp. 107-139.

Thursday, March 20

1. Language - Practical Applications

* Have read

1. Essay, III.vii. through III.xi, pp. 471-524.

Tuesday, March 25

1. Representation

* Have read Essay IV.i through IV.v, pp. 525-579

Thursday, March 27

1. Representation

* Have read Mackie, Chap. 2, pp. 37-71.

April 2008

Date Event

Tuesday, April 1

1. General & Certain Truth

* Have read Essay, IV.vi through IV.viii. pp. 579-617.

Thursday, April 3

1. Knowledge et al

* Have read Essay, IV.xiv through IV.xxiii. pp. 652-721.

Tuesday, April 8

1. 1st Submission Option Due

2. Slack

Thursday, April 10

1. Slack

Tuesday, April 15

1. Slack

Thursday, April 17

1. Slack

Tuesday, April 22

1. Slack

Thursday, April 24

1. Slack

Monday, April 28

1. All Papers Due