

Philosophy 3028F: Hume

Fall 2016 (Sept 8th-Dec 7th)

Lectures: Tuesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm, Thursdays 12:30pm-2:30pm

Location: W-106

Instructor: Maité Cruz Tleugabulova

Email: mcruztle@uwo.ca

Office: A304

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3pm -5pm

Important Note:

This course uses OWL. Important course documents such as the course outline, readings, and assignment instructions will be posted on the course page on OWL. Students are required to check the course page for announcements on a weekly basis. Please go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and log in to access the course page.

Prerequisites:

PHI 2202, or consent of the instructor

Course Description:

Book I of Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature* revolutionized Western philosophy with its challenge that some of our most fundamental notions are the result of non-rational instincts and mechanisms. In this course, we will closely examine that text with the aim of grasping its empiricist and naturalist commitments, its explanations of mental operations, and its skeptical arguments. As a way of better understanding Hume's views, we will also examine passages from some of the early modern texts that paved the way for those views, such as Locke's *Essay*, Berkeley's *Principles*, and Malebranche's *The Search after Truth*.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to ...

- Explain the central concepts, principles, and theories of Book I of the *Treatise*.
- Identify and describe the empiricist and naturalist methods underpinning Hume's explanations and arguments.
- Interpret and critically evaluate Hume's arguments about space and time, causation, external objects, substance, and personal identity.
- Compare Hume's views to those of his predecessors.

Class Methods:

Tuesday classes will be devoted mostly to lecture. Thursday classes will be devoted mostly to discussion of a preassigned topic.

Required Texts:

- *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Edited by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007.
- Additional required readings will be posted on OWL.

Evaluation:10% Participation

You are required to actively contribute to class discussion. At the end of the semester, you will receive a score between 1 and 10 for your participation in the class. A rubric explaining the evaluative criteria for this score will be available on OWL. Students who have serious difficulties with speaking in class must request accommodations during the first week of classes.

10% Reading Quizzes

You are required to prepare before every class by reading the texts assigned for the class on the 'Schedule of Readings and Lectures'. There will be a quiz every Tuesday at the beginning of class. The quiz will consist of one multiple-choice question on the reading. The question will be such that, if you read the text, you will have very good chances of answering correctly. There will be 13 quizzes in total.

Since the quizzes take place at the beginning of every Tuesday class, if you miss class or arrive late you will not be able to take the quiz and will receive a score of 0. You will not be allowed to make up for missed quizzes unless exceptional circumstances apply, in which case you may be required to submit documentation to the academic advising office (see the Appendix on 'Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds').

40% Short Papers

Every Thursday, I will provide you with a writing prompt on the reading assigned for the following week. You are required to hand-in a paper of 250-350 words on the prompt on the following Thursday class. You will be allowed to pencil revisions on your paper during that class. There will be 11 prompts in total. At the end of the semester, I will discount the two papers in which you scored the lowest. The average of your nine highest grades will be worth **40%** of your final grade. A rubric explaining how these assignments will be graded will be available on OWL.

You must submit a hard copy of every paper in class on the Thursday on which it is due (i.e. the Thursday following the prompt announcement). Failure to submit the paper in class will result in the loss of 5% of the grade; if the paper is submitted late, an additional 5% will be deducted for every day the paper is late, including weekends. This policy may be waived if exceptional circumstances apply, in which case documentation may be

required (see the Appendix on ‘Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds’).

This component of the course requires you to read and interpret a text on your own before the text is discussed in class. I expect students taking the class to possess third-year reading and comprehension skills. While the texts will often be difficult, students with the requisite skills who take the time to think carefully about the text should be able to complete the short papers successfully. In grading the papers, I will take account of the fact that students are grappling with difficult material for the first time.

40% Final Paper (Outline 5%, Paper 35%)

You are required to write an outline and a final paper on a topic of your choice. The outline will be approximately 300 words (one page), due in class on **November 8th**, and worth **5%** of your final grade. The final paper will be 1500-2000 words (6-8 pages), due in class on **November 29th**, and worth **35%** of your final grade. Two weeks before the outline is due, a document will be available on OWL explaining the instructions and evaluative criteria for each assignment.

Late submissions will result in the loss of 5% of the grade for the assignment for every day it is late, including weekends. This policy may be waived if exceptional circumstances apply, in which case documentation may be required (see the Appendix on ‘Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds’).

Students will receive their graded final papers back on December 6. Students may rewrite their papers in light of the comments provided and re-submit them by **December 13**. If the grade for the re-submitted paper is higher than that of the initial paper, it will replace the initial grade. Students should not expect a re-submitted paper to receive a higher grade unless revisions to the initial paper are substantial.

Email Policy:

I will respond to emails within one business day. I do not read or respond to emails during the weekend.

Schedule of Readings and Lectures:

Note: This schedule is subject to change.

Sept 8: Introduction to the course

Sept 13, 15: Aims and methods of the *Treatise*
Treatise: Introduction (pp.3-6), first four paragraphs of Abstract (pp. 407-408)

OWL: Excerpts from Newton's *Principia*
Treatise: Book II, Part III, Section 3.

Sept 20, 22: Impressions and Ideas
Treatise: Book I, Part I, Sections 1-3.
OWL: Excerpts from Locke's *Essay*

Sept 27, 29: Relations, Abstract Ideas, Distinctions of Reason
Treatise: Book I, Part I, Sections 4-7.
OWL: Excerpts from Berkeley's *Principles*

Oct 4, 6: The Ideas of Space and Time, Infinite Divisibility
Treatise: Book I, Part II, Sections 1-3
OWL: Excerpts from Locke's *Essay*
OWL: Excerpts from Bayle's *Dictionary*.

Oct 11, 13: The Ideas of Space and Time (continued), Geometry, Vacuum, Existence
Treatise: Book I, Part II, Sections 4-6

Oct 18, 20: Knowledge, Probability, The Idea of Cause and Effect
Treatise: Book I, Part III, Sections 1-6

Oct 25: Belief
Treatise: Book I, Part III, Section 7; Appendix paragraphs 1-9 and 22.

Nov 1, 3: Belief and Probability
Treatise: Book I, Part III, Sections 8-13

Nov 8, 10: The Idea of Necessary Connection
Treatise: Book I, Part III, Sections 14-16
OWL: Excerpts from Malebranche's *The Search After Truth*
PAPER OUTLINE DUE on Nov 8

Nov 15, 17: Skepticism with Regard to Reason and the Senses
Treatise: Book I, Part IV, Sections 1 and 2.

Nov 22, 24: Substance
Treatise: Book I, Part IV, Sections 3-5.
OWL: Excerpts from Bayle's *Dictionary*.
OWL: Excerpts from Descartes' *Meditations*.
OWL: Excerpts from Berkeley's *Principles*.

- Nov 29, Dec 1: Personal Identity
Treatise: Book I, Part IV, Section 6; Appendix paragraphs 10-21.
OWL: Excerpts from Locke's *Essay*
OWL: Butler on Personal Identity
FINAL PAPER DUE on Nov 29
- Dec 6: Conclusion
Treatise: Book I, Part IV, Section 7



Appendix to Course Outlines **Prerequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Requests for Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf, requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf. The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been informed of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the dean.

Requests for Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been informed of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the dean.

Requests for Accommodation on Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student’s request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been informed that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student’s ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a

request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> ("Class Cancellations").

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>