

PHIL3072, ANU, 2015
FIRST ESSAY

Choose one of the following essay topics.

Topic 1.

- (a) Describe both Galileo's and Locke's doctrines of primary and secondary qualities.
 - (b) Either defend one of these doctrines, or argue for the claim that some specific property or properties are misclassified by Galileo and/or Locke.
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Topic 2.

- (a) When Berkeley denied the existence of material objects, what exactly was he denying?
 - (b) What was Berkeley's *best* argument for immaterialism? Evaluate this argument.
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Topic 3.

- (a) Describe "Hume's" problem of induction, and Goodman's New Riddle of Induction.
 - (b) To what extent do these two problems count against radical empiricism?
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Topic 4.

- (a) Describe Hume's views on causation.
- (b) Describe the relevance of Hume's views on causation to his empiricism.

Topic 5.

- (a) Briefly state Hume's fork in your own words (but with a citation to Hume's work).
 - (b) Evaluate Hume's arguments for committing things to the flames.
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Topic 6.

- (a) Describe one example of an empiricist writing prior to 1925 who starts their investigations with epistemology, and who then, based on their epistemology, draws conclusions (perhaps agnostic or sceptical conclusions) about ontology.
 - (b) Briefly (in 500–1,000 words) give an argument for or against one of this philosopher's conclusions about ontology.
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Topic 7.

Write your own essay topic on some aspect of empiricism prior to 1925.

If you choose this option, you must have the exact wording of your topic approved by the course convenor, by email, by midnight on Tuesday 1 September (which means you should email him a few days beforehand to request approval — the earlier the better). Approval is not automatic, because the course convenor is responsible for ensuring your topic is not too easy or (more likely) too hard, and that it's relevant to the course. If you have not received approval by midnight on Tuesday 1 September, you must choose one of the other essay topics. If you do receive approval, you must answer exactly the question which was approved.

Rules and recommendations

For a good mark, it is important to stick to the essay topic. Being clever will get you a reasonable mark but only being clever *and* sticking to the topic will get you a superb mark.

Write up to 2,500 words.

This assignment is worth 45% of the marks for the course.

This assignment is due by 5pm on Wednesday 9 September. If you need an extension, please make your request for an extension before the due date.

Submit your essay via Wattle.

Please upload your answer in an open format like plain text or PDF if you can (but if you can't, that won't affect your mark).

Tips on writing philosophy essays:

<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research/wp.html>.

Email me (jason.grossman@anu.edu.au) straight away if you're stuck, or if you're having trouble finishing on time for any reason.

Have fun!

