

PHIL3072, ANU, 2015
SECOND ESSAY

Summarise the history of empiricism, concentrating especially on the period from Locke to Quine (inclusive).

You do not need to cover all parts of the history equally, and you do not need to include all the texts mentioned in this course, but you should not skip any really major parts of the history (for example, don't skip a topic as large as Hume's empiricism or Quine's "Two Dogmas").

As far as possible, make your essay into a unified story, by relating the most important parts of the history to each other, and by making the story illustrate one or more overall principles. You should choose your own way of doing this.

[Please turn over.]

[Unless you're looking at the PDF version of this. In that case, please don't attempt to turn it over, or you could damage your computer.]

Rules and recommendations

Please have fun with this!

It's a good idea to be creative in your writing style (and you may include pictures), but be warned that creativity can get in the way of making enough substantive points, so find a compromise.

An example of an overall unifying principle you could use to structure your story is, "It's always vital to know who philosophers are reacting against, otherwise you won't understand their conclusions." But for good marks you should choose one or more unifying principles of your own.

Write up to 2,500 words.

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

This assignment is due by 5pm on Friday 13 November. Extensions will not be possible except by prior agreement under an Access and Equity Plan, or except in extreme circumstances such as major and documented sickness, because we will be on a tight marking timetable.

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.