

Hume
Carnegie Mellon University
Fall 2013

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Kevin Zollman
email: kzollman@andrew.cmu.edu
office: Baker Hall 155D
office hours: Tuesdays 10a-noon

DESCRIPTION David Hume was a prominent Scottish philosopher of the 18th century. One of the most famous “empiricists,” his thought has deeply influenced contemporary philosophy. Many philosophers, including Immanuel Kant, Rudolph Carnap, and Charles Sanders Pierce credit Hume as a major intellectual precursor to their own thought.

Before there was a word for it, Hume was a social scientist. He was as much of a psychologist, economist, sociologist, and anthropologist as he was a philosopher. In this course, we will read Hume's largest and most philosophically complete work, *A Treatise on Human Nature*. The *Treatise* covers a lot of philosophical ground; Hume weighs in on almost every philosophical problem of his day and creates a few new ones along the way.

COURSE OBJECTIVES By the end of the course, you will have a deeper understanding of the philosophical problems Hume addresses as well as Hume's approach to those problems. Of course, you need not agree with Hume. In fact, you can think he's full of it. But, by the end of the course, you should be able to say *why* you think that.

Along the way, you will also develop general philosophical ability. By the end of the course, you should be better able to understand arguments both in and out of philosophy. In combination with other courses taken at this university, this should leave you better able to judge whether or not you agree with a argumentative position taken by another.

READINGS David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Dover Philosophical Classics

David Fate Norton and Jacqueline Taylor (editors), *The Cambridge Companion to Hume*, 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press

GRADING 20 % Class participation
40 % Progress on portfolio
40 % Final portfolio (including 5-page paper)

Class participation will be self-evaluated at the end of each class.

You will be allowed three absences throughout the semester. Unless you can excuse *all* your absences with legitimate excuses, no additional absences will be allowed. Plan accordingly.

ARGUMENT For credit in this course I will ask that you diagram one argument from Hume each
DIAGRAM week. You are welcome to consult the secondary reading or other sources in
PORTFOLIO constructing your diagrams, **but those sources must be credited.** Failure to properly cite any source you used is academic misconduct.

Twice during the semester I will ask you to turn in your portfolios. I will give you feedback on the portfolio, so that you can go back and improve it. The progress grades will be relatively lax. The final portfolio, turned in at the end of the semester will not be.

The final portfolio should also include a 5 page paper where you argue against one of the arguments you diagrammed in the portfolio.

MISCONDUCT Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. If you
AND commit an act of plagiarism you will fail the course and will be reported to central
PLAGIARISM administration. Are you unsure about what is plagiarism? Look at plagiarism.org.

LATE WORK If you are having trouble finishing the work on time contact me before the due date and we can discuss arrangements and penalties for late work. Unless serious misfortune befell you, I will not accept late work if you don't approach me before hand.

Date	Topic
August 27	Introduction Hume and Argument Mapping
August 29	Introduction and Book I, Part I (23 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the origin of our ideas • Division of the subject • Of the ideas of memory and imagination • Of the connection or association of ideas • Of relations • Of modes and substances • Of abstract ideas
September 3	Book I, Part II Sections I – VI (21 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the infinite divisibility of our ideas of space and time • Of the infinite divisibility of space and time • Of the other qualities of our ideas of space and time • Objections answered • The same subject continued • Of the idea of extence and of external existence
September 5	Baxter, “Hume's theory of space and time in its skeptical context”
September 10	Book I, Part III Sections I – VI (18 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of knowledge • Of probability; and of the idea of cause and effect • Why a cause is always necessary • Of the component parts of our reasonings concerning cause and effect • Of the impressions of the senses and memory • Of the inference from the impression to the idea
September 12	Book I, Part III Sections VII – X (27 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the nature of the idea or belief • Of the causes of belief • Of the effects of other relations and other habits • Of the influence of belief
September 17	Book I, Part III Sections XI – XVI (30 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the probability of chances • Of the probability of causes • Of unphilosophical probability • Of the idea of necessary connection • Rules by which to judge of causes and effects • Of the reason of animals
September 19	Bell, “Hume on Causation”, <i>CCH</i>

Date	Topic
September 24	Book I, Part IV Section I – II (28 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of scepticism with regard to reason • Of scepticism with regard to the senses
September 26	Book I, Part IV Sections III – V (22 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the ancient philosophy • Of the modern philosophy • Of the immateriality of the soul
FIRST PORTFOLIO DUE	
October 1	Fogelin, “Hume's Skepticism”
October 3	Book I, Part IV Section VI – VII (16 pages, but includes conclusion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of personal identity • Conclusion <p style="text-align: center;">McIntyre “Hume and the problem of personal identity”, <i>CCH</i></p>
October 8	Biro “Hume's new science of the mind”, <i>CCH</i>
October 10	Book II, Part I, Sections I – VI (20 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • division of th subject • Of pride and humility; their objects and causes • Whence these objects and causes are derived • Of the relations of impressions and ideas • Of the influence of these relations on pride and humility • Limitations of this system
October 15	Book II, Part I, Sections VII – X (15 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of vice and virtue • Of beauty and deformity • Of external advantages and disadvantages • Of property and riches
October 17	Book II, Part I, Sections XI – XII, Part II, Sections I – III (25 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the love of fame • Of the pride and humility of animals • Of the objects and causes of love and hatred • Experiments to confirm this system • Difficulties solved
October 22	Book II, Part II, Sections IV – VII (21 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the love of relations • Of our esteem for the rich and powerful • Of benevolence and anger • Of compassion

Date	Topic
October 24	Book II, Part II, Section VIII – XII (20 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of malice and envy • Of the mixture of benevolence and anger with compassion and malice • Of respect and contempt • Of the amorous passion, or love betwixt the sexes • Of the love and hatred of animals
October 29	Book II, Part III, Sections I – V (16 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of liberty and necessity • The same subject continued • Of the influencing motives of the will • Of the causes of the violent passions • Of the effects of custom
October 31	Book II, Part III, Sections VI – X (31 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the influence of the imagination on the passions • Of contiguity and distance in space and time • The same subject continued • Of the direct passions • Of curiosity or the love of truth
SECOND PORTFOLIO DUE	
November 5	Owen, “Hume and the mechanics of the mind”, <i>CCH</i>
November 7	Book III, Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral distinctions not derived from reason • Moral distinctions derived from a moral sense
November 12	Book III, Part II, Sections I-V <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice whether a natural or artificial virtue • Of the origin of justice and property • Of the rules that determine property • Of the transference of property by consent • Of the obligation of promises
November 14	Book III, Part II, Section VI-IX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some further reflections concerning justice and injustice • Of the origin of government • Of the source of allegiance • Of the measure of allegiance
November 19	Book II, Part II, Section X-XII <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the objects of allegiance • Of the laws of nations • Of chastity and modesty

Date	Topic
November 21	Book III, Part III, Sections III – VI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the origin of the natural virtues and vices • Of greatness of mind • Of goodness and benevolence • Of natural abilities • Some farther reflections concern the natural virtues • Conclusion
November 26	Norton, “The foundations of morality in Hume's treatise.”, <i>CCH</i>
December 3	Taylor, “Justice and the foundations of social morality in Hume's Treatise” (download)
December 5	Wrap up.
December 13	FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE