

# PHL 270/470: HUME AND REID

## SPRING 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Alison Peterman  
CONTACT: alison.peterman@rochester.edu  
OFFICE HOURS: T/Th 12:30-1:30 pm, Lattimore 520

TIME AND LOCATION: T/Th 2:00-3:15 pm, Lattimore 531  
TEXTS: We will discuss editions on the first day of class.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Generally, PHL 270/470 is intended to provide you with a deeper understanding of one particular set of writers or issues in early modern philosophy. PHL 202 (or equivalent, for graduate students) is a prerequisite unless you have spoken to me and had it waived. This semester, we will be studying Hume and Reid, who are both especially concerned with studying the structure of the human mind and cognition and with the implications of their findings for epistemology and metaphysics.

Note: we will discuss the graduate student reading group and the date of the first exam on the first day of class.

### POLICIES

Please let me know right away if you need special accommodations because of a documented condition that interferes with your learning.

Please email me at the beginning of the course letting me know your preferred gender pronoun: <https://www.gsafewi.org/wp-content/uploads/What-the-heck-is-a-PGP1.pdf>.

Please review the class schedule sometime in the next week and let me know if there are any issues.

Please turn off your cell phones when you arrive; if you are texting I will ask you to leave. No laptops in class (except for students with a documented need for one).

You must bring your textbook to every class!

Student success at the University of Rochester includes more than just academic performance. Please feel comfortable speaking with me about challenges you are experiencing

within and outside of the classroom so that I may submit a CARE report on your behalf. A CARE report is submitted when the level of concern for a student necessitates inclusive, multi-layered support from the campus community. The CARE network administrator shares information only with staff who need to know it in order to help you.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. As freshmen, students read and sign an academic honesty policy statement to indicate that they understand the general principles upon which our work is based. The College Board on Academic Honesty website gives further information on our policies and procedures: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty).

## ASSESSMENT

### RESPONSE PAPERS (16%):

You'll hand in eight response papers throughout the semester. They are worth 2% each. You may choose when to do them, within the following parameters: four before the spring break and four after, and no more than one per week. The assignment is to write one to two critical pages about the reading for the day, to be emailed to me at least one hour before class begins that day. For example, you might briefly outline the argument in the reading for that day, and then pose a question about or criticism of the argument or one of its premises. You should also make an attempt to answer the question or respond to the criticism.

### PARTICIPATION (4%):

Coming to class on time and prepared, and asking questions and contributing to class discussion in a way that suggests that you have thoughtfully done the reading, will contribute 4% of your final grade. I will use the whole range of these four points; for example, if you miss four classes and never participate, you will receive a zero. You may take two unexcused absences; after that, your participation grade will be penalized unless there are extenuating circumstances. If participating will be a problem for you, please let me know right away and we can arrange an alternate method of assessment.

### ESSAYS (50%):

There will be two essays of 6 pages apiece, each worth 25% of your final grade.

### EXAMS (30%):

There will be two exams held during class time, each worth 15% of your final grade. You may opt out of taking the second exam if you are happy with your grade (although note that you will not know your final grade without it until you hand in your second paper).

# COURSE SCHEDULE

The readings listed for each day are to be read *before* the lecture on that day.

Week 1: Locke

January 19: Selections from Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, on Blackboard

Week 2: Berkeley

January 24: *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, Sections 1-33

January 26: *PHK*, Sections 86-99

Week 3: Hume

January 31

\* *Treatise*, Sections 1.1.1-2

\* Recommended: *Enquiry*, Sections 1-2

February 2

\* *Treatise*, 1.1.3-4

\* Recommended: *Enquiry*, 3

Week 4: Hume

February 7

\* *Treatise*, 1.1.5-7

February 9

\* *Treatise*, 1.2.1-3, 6

Week 5: Hume

February 14

\* *Treatise*, 1.2.1-3, 6

February 16

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.1-2

\* First paper assigned

Week 6: Hume

February 21

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.3-5

February 23

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.6

Week 7: Hume

February 28

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.7-8

\*

March 2

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.11-12

Week 8: Hume

March 7

\* *Treatise*, 1.3.14-16

March 9

\* Exam 1

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Reid

March 21

\* *Treatise* 1.4.1-2, 7

\* First paper due

March 23

Week 10: Reid

March 28

\* *An Inquiry into the Human Mind*, 1.5-8

\* *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, 1, Preface

March 30

\* *Essays*, Essay 1, Chapters 1-7

Week 11: Reid

April 4

\* *Essays*, Essay 2, Chapters 4-5

April 6

- \* *Essays*, Essay 2, Chapters 12 and 14
- \* Second paper assigned.

Week 12: Alison is at the APA; class is meeting and I will try to Skype in one or both days.

April 11

- \* *Essays*, Essay 2, Chapters 16 and 17

April 13

- \* *Essays*, Essay 2, Chapters 19-21

Week 13: Reid

April 18

- \* *Essays*, Essay 4, Chapters 1-2

April 20

- \* *Essays*, Essay 5, Chapters 1-4

Week 14: Reid

April 25

- \* *Essays*, Essay 6, Chapters 1-2 and 5-6

April 27

- \* *Essays* Essay 7, Chapter 4

Week 15

May 2

- \* Exam 2

May 8: Second paper due.