



Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*

Philosophy 273T, Spring 2006
Tutorial

J. Cruz, Associate Professor of Philosophy

From the Course Catalog:

David Hume started work on his *Treatise of Human Nature* (1739/40) at the age of 15 and finished it in his mid 20's. His ambition was no less than a complete science of human nature, including an account of knowledge, the emotions, and morality. Some of Hume's conclusions are famously skeptical, while others offer a rich positive source of philosophical and psychological insight. He considers personal identity, free will, induction, causality, the limits of reason, sentiment as a foundation for morality, relativism, and objectivity. The *Treatise* now exerts a towering influence over the Western tradition, and many contemporary currents in moral philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind, cognitive science, and philosophy of science are identifiably "Humean." In this tutorial we will read the entire *Treatise* along with other works by Hume and influential secondary literature. Throughout, we will have two goals, namely understanding Hume's positions in their historical context and making sense of the relevance of Hume's approach to current theorizing. At the end of the semester we will turn to some recent inheritors of Hume's projects, with special attention to philosophical naturalism.

This is a writing intensive course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hume, D. (2000) *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Norton, D. and Norton, M., eds.
Oxford: Oxford UP.

This is available at Water Street Books. Please feel welcome, however, to use any unabridged copy that is available to you.

Other required readings will be available as electronic resources.

GRADING

1. *Tutorial Essays*

In this tutorial you will present FIVE essays, approximately 5-7 pages each.

In these essays you will be expected to engage substantial themes that arise in the readings. For each week, the instructor will offer

several suggested topics to write on. The suggested questions are intended to guide your efforts should you elect to write on them, but also to indicate the scope and nature of the issues you should concentrate on. You are always welcome to write on some other topic of your choosing.

PLEASE EMAIL OR DELIVER YOUR PAPER TO YOUR TUTORIAL PARTNER (AND TO THE INSTRUCTOR) BY 5PM THE DAY BEFORE YOUR MEETING. Essays should be typewritten, double spaced in a 12 point font with 1 inch margins. No title page.

You will present your tutorial essay during tutorial meetings, and the first 10 to 15 minutes of each meeting will be set aside for that purpose. Your ultimate goal should be to present your work orally without reading the paper. You may, however, elect to read parts or all of your work for the first or second time you present. A useful strategy might be to create an outline of main themes of your essay to trace during the oral presentation. You might then refer to your paper from time to time, but your primary strategy would be to speak without reading.

Each tutorial essay, including the oral presentation of each essay and your participation on weeks when you write, is worth 15% of your final grade.

2. Tutorial Participation and Critical Notes

Critical discussion during meetings is the heart of the tutorial. On weeks where you do not present, you will be expected to engage your tutorial partner's work thoughtfully, energetically, tenaciously, and respectfully. You will already have read your partner's paper once. Please prepare notes that you will draw on for the conversation. The best notes will be something more than a mere outline, but you need not aim for a polished essay for your critical notes (you will not be expected to read from your notes). Keep in mind that a critical discussion does not demand that one *criticize*. You are encouraged to signal your elaborations and sympathetic amendments to your partner's work.

Tutorial notes should be 1-3 pages typed, and should be turned in at the end of the tutorial meeting.

Participation in the tutorial during weeks you are not presenting and your tutorial discussion notes will constitute 15% of the final grade.

3. Seminar Essay

For the final week of the semester, you will work on an essay on any topic in Hume that you wish to engage, 4-6 pages, due on 5/12 at 5pm. We will then meet as a seminar during reading period where the required reading will be the full set of seminar papers.

The seminar essay will be worth 10% of your final grade.

TUTORIAL RESOURCES

Office Hours - The instructor is available for office meetings each week in Harper House 9. Students may visit individually or in groups. I am available by appointment, or during the following open-door times:

Tuesdays	12:30-2:30
Thursdays	12:30-2:30
Fridays	11am-Noon

Instant Messaging - The instructor will occasionally be available via AIM. You may assume that if I am logged on, I am available and eager for conversation (screen name: profjcruz).

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Below you will find the minimal and required reading for each week of the course. You will also find at the end of the schedule a bibliography of additional material that you are encouraged to pursue. You are expected to make a spirited effort to look at some of the this, though it is more pages and more demanding than can be reasonably required. When you incorporate this material into your essays, be sure to footnote it in your favorite style.

Week One 2/13-2/17	Topic: Hume's philosophy of mind Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 1.1.1-1.2.6
Week Two 2/20-2/24	Topic: Causation Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 1.3.1-1.3.10 <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , <u>sect. IV</u> (PDF)
Week Three 2/27-3/3	Topic: Probability, necessary connection, and skepticism Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 1.3.11-1.4.2 <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , <u>sect. VII</u> (PDF)
Week Four 3/6-3/10	Topic: The soul and personal identity Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 1.4.3-1.4.7
Week Five 3/13-3/17	Topic: Indirect passions Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 2.1.1-2.1.12; 2.2.1-2.2.12
Week Six 4/3-4/7	Topic: Direct passions and freedom Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 2.3.1-2.3.10 <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , <u>sect. VIII</u> (PDF)

Week Seven 4/10-4/14	Topic: Moral distinctions Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 3.1.1-3.1.2 " <u>Of the Standard of Taste</u> " (PDF)
Week Eight 4/17-4/21	Topic: Artificial virtues Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 3.2.1-3.2.5
Week Nine 4/24-4/28	Topic: Justice and government Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 3.2.6-3.2.12
Week Ten 5/1-5/5	Topic: Natural virtues Readings: <i>Treatise</i> 3.3.1-3.3.6
Week Eleven 5/8-5/12	<i>We will convene as a seminar during reading period, time and location to be announced</i> Topic: Themes in Hume Readings: Student seminar papers (due 5/12 by email to entire class)

Supplementary material

(Books are on four hour reserve in Sawyer. You are responsible for securing journal articles. Please consult the library staff should you need research help.)

Week One

Broad, C. D. (1961) Hume's Doctrine of Space. In *The Proceedings of the British Academy*, London, Volume XLVII. London: Oxford UP.

Everson, S. (1998) The Difference between Feeling and Thinking, *Mind* 97.

Fodor, J. (2003) *Hume Variations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapters 1-4)

Garrett, D. (1997) *Cognition and Commitment in Hume's Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapters 1-3)

Johnson, O. (1995) *The Mind of David Hume*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Week Two

Beauchamp, T. and Mappes, T. (1975) Is Hume Really a Sceptic about Induction? *American Philosophical Quarterly* 12, pp. 119-129.

Garrett, D. (1997) *Cognition and Commitment in Hume's Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford

University Press. (Chapters 4)

Loeb, L. (draft) [Psychology, Epistemology, and Skepticism in Hume's Argument About Induction](#). (link to PDF)

Pears, D. (1976). The Naturalism of Book I of Hume's Treatise of Human Nature. In *The Proceedings of the British Academy*, London, Volume LXII. London: Oxford UP.

Week Three

O'Shea, (1996) Hume's Reflective Return to the Vulgar. *British Journal of the History of Philosophy* 4.

Popkin, R. (1996) Hume's Scepticism: Natural Instinct and Philosophical Reflection. In *Scepticism in the History of Philosophy*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Week Four

Broackes, J. (1999) Hume, Belief and Personal Identity in *Reading Hume's First Enquiry*, Millican, P., ed. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Penelhum, T. (2000) *Themes in Hume: The Self, The Will, Religion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Collection of essays.)

Week Five

Ardal, P. (1989) *Passion and Value in Hume's Treatise*, 2nd edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Baier, A. (1978) Hume's Analysis of Pride. *Journal of Philosophy* 75, pp. 27-40.

Week Six

Mackie, J. L. (1980). *Hume's Moral Theory*. London: Routledge.

McIntyre, J. (1989) Personal Identity and the Passions. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 27, pp. 545-557.

Rorty, A. (1990) 'Pride Produces the Idea of Self': Hume on Moral Agency. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 3, pp. 255-269.

Week Seven

Baier, A. (1991) *A Progress of Sentiments*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Cohon, R. (1997) The Common Point of View in Hume's Ethics. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* Vol. LVII, No. 4, December 1997, pp. 827-850.

Radcliffe, E. (1994) Hume on Motivating Sentiments, the General Point of View, and the Inculcation of 'Morality'. *Hume Studies* 20, pp. 37-58.

Week Eight

Harrison, J. (1976) *Hume's Moral Epistemology*. London: Oxford UP.

Loeb, L. (2002) *Stability and Justification in Hume's Treatise*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week Nine

Gauthier, D. (1992) Artificial Virtues and the Sensible Knave. *Hume Studies* 18, pp. 401-427.
A. Baier, A. (1992) Artificial Virtues and Equally Sensible Non-Knaves: A Response to Gauthier. *Hume Studies* 18, pp. 429-439.

Week Ten

Darwall, S. (1995) *The British Moralists and the Internal Ought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (especially Chapter 10)

Week Eleven

Chappell, V. C., ed. (1968) *Hume: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press.

Kuypers, M. (1976) *Studies in the Eighteenth Century Background of Hume's Empiricism*. New York: Russell and Russell.

Penelhum, T. (1992) *David Hume: An Introduction to His Philosophical System*. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press.

Stroud, B. (1977) *Hume*. London: Routledge.