PH30ZT: Hume on Knowledge

15 Credits. 11 weeks.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

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TIMETABLE
All classes take place on Thursday, 12pm - 2pm in Fraser Noble FN2.  
*Students can view their university timetable at*  

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on David Hume's 'An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding' (1748/1777). This important text continues to exert a strong influence in contemporary metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of mind. Topics covered will include: the mind-world relation and the nature of thought; the nature of causation and causal explanation; free will and determinism; the Design Argument for the existence of God; the nature of objectivity. Classroom sessions involve both lecture-style teaching and student-led group work.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
In this course, we will engage in a close reading of a rich philosophical text. The benefits of doing this are many, but in particular we will practice independent critical engagement with primary texts. In doing so, you will

- learn to read academic texts in an active rather than a passive way;
- learn to outline and develop clearly articulated critical responses to the text;
- learn how to use these critical responses as a basis for an academic paper on the text, with appropriate citation and structure.

Focusing on Hume’s rich but readable text will allow students to think deeply about a variety of important philosophical topics. Seminar activities will build on this, supporting students to develop ideas into full length essays with appropriate academic style, structure and content.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1: Introductory lecture—explaining how the course works, and giving an introductory overview of Hume’s thought as preparation for close reading.
Weeks 2-11: Seminars—seminar structure is altered from year to year to suit the particular student group. Usually these sessions will involve some combination of student led discussion (75%) and background/guidance/feedback for course co-ordinator (25%).

We will usually cover one or two chapters of the text each week.

Week 12: Revision Session

PRIMARY TEXT.
The primary text is David Hume’s *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Since the text is a classic, and long out of copyright, there are multiple versions to be had. I will be using this excellent student edition, which I recommend you buy:


You can access an electronic version of this edition via the library catalogue. I would advise you a hard copy of the text, whichever version you finally decide to use.

I will also refer you to Hume’s *Treatise*. Again, there are multiple versions. I will be using this edition, but don’t feel you have to buy it.


SECONDARY READING.
A useful secondary text to support close reading of Hume’s First Enquiry:


Some excellent textbooks and collections of papers include:

Terence Penelhum *David Hume: an Introduction to his Philosophical System*;

For a detailed annotated bibliography, see:  
http://www.davidhume.org/bibliographies.html

ASSESSMENT
One 2500-3000 word essay (45%); one 2 hour exam (45%); class participation (10%).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAYS
Details on essay questions and submission detailed (including essay deadline) will be circulated at the beginning of the course.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.

Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION
Information on how the examination paper will be structured, if necessary, such as how many questions, etc. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.