

**Philosophy 20C**  
**History of Philosophy:**  
**Developments in Empiricism in the**  
**Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries**

**Instructor:** Robert McIntyre

**Lectures:** TR 9:30-10:45, BUCHN 1910

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**Office Hours:** R 11 am-1 pm, South Hall 5718 (or by appointment)

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**Teaching Assistant:** Albert Shin

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## **Course Description and Goals:**

In this course we will explore some developments in early modern empiricist philosophy. In particular, we shall focus on empiricist accounts of human nature and ethics. Beginning with the work of Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), we shall examine the “social contract” theory of ethics. Then we will turn to John Locke’s (1632-1704) alternative account of the social contract. Finally, we will end by exploring the “sentimentalist” theory of morals advocated by David Hume (1711-1776).

## **Required Texts:**

1. A course reader, available from Alternative Digital Printing, in the UCEN (also available in an electronic form).

2. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Edwin Curley ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994)
3. John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, C.B. Macpherson, ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett...)
4. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, J.B. Schneewind, ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett 1983)

## Assignments and Exams:

**Reading Assignments:** I will assign readings from our textbook and reader every week. I will announce the readings in lecture and on our GauchoSpace page (along with any recommended readings).

**Participation** – 5%: Your TA will determine your participation grade. It will be based on attendance *and also* on your general willingness to engage in discussion in section or in office hours. (Don't expect a perfect grade merely for being an organic body).

**Homework** – 10%: I will assign 4 short writing assignments throughout the quarter. You shall have about a week to complete each of them. They will be about 1-2 pages in length on a topic of my choosing. You will receive credit/no credit. You will receive credit if and only if it is on time *and* you have made an honest attempt to complete the assignment (don't b.s. it!).

**Paper 1** – 20%: 3-5 pages, on a topic of my choosing. **Assigned 4/24; Due 5/1.**

**Paper 2** – 35%: 6-8 pages, on a topic of my choosing. **Assigned 5/15; Due 5/27**

**Final Exam** – 30%: The final will take place on **Tuesday, June 10, 2014 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**. *This is the only day the final will be given. There will be no make-ups.*

***You must complete both papers and take the final exam in order to pass this course. It is your responsibility to drop the course; we will not drop you.***

**Note:** Things change – the Fates are fickle. Consequently, it may become necessary to alter or amend the information found on this syllabus – it is *your* responsibility to remain abreast of those changes.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated – violators will be prosecuted pursuant to UCSB's code of academic integrity.<sup>1</sup> In addition to reporting all violators, *I will take further action – I will **fail** anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing.* If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the Office of Judicial Affairs,<sup>2</sup> your TA, or come to see me.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/pdf/academicintegflyer.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>

## **Tentative Schedule:**

### **Week 1: Thomas Hobbes: Empiricism**

**Tuesday 4/1:** The Empiricist critique of Cartesian Rationalism

**Thursday 4/3:** Hobbes's empirical account of the human mind

### **Week 2: Thomas Hobbes: Human Nature**

**Tuesday 4/8:** The passions and motivation

-- Short writing assignment #1 assigned; **due 4/15 (at the beginning of lecture and no later)**

**Thursday 4/10:** The nature of "good" and "bad"; the origin of religion

### **Week 3: Thomas Hobbes: The Science of Morals**

**Tuesday 4/15:** The state of nature

-- Short writing assignment #1 **due (at the beginning of lecture and no later)**

-- Short writing assignment #2 assigned; **due 4/22 (at the beginning of lecture and no later)**

**Thursday 4/17:** Reason and the laws of nature

### **Week 4: Thomas Hobbes: the Social Contract**

**Tuesday 4/22:** Persons, promises and covenants

-- Short writing assignment #2 **due, at the beginning of lecture and no later**

**Thursday 4/24:** Covenants and justice; the Fool

-- Paper #1 assigned (**due: Thursday 5/1**)

### **Week 5: Thomas Hobbes: the Social Contract; John Locke: the Social Contract**

**Tuesday 4/29:** Covenants and Justice, cont'd.

**Thursday 5/1:** John Locke on the state of nature

-- **Paper #1 DUE**

### **Week 6: John Locke: On Property and the Social Contract**

**Tuesday 5/6:** Civil society

-- Short writing assignment #3 assigned (**due: Tuesday 5/13 at the beginning of lecture and no later**)

**Thursday 5/8:** On Property and government

**Week 7:** John Locke: the Social Contract, cont'd; David Hume: Human Nature and the Sentimentalism

**Tuesday 5/13:** John Locke on government; Hume on human nature

-- Short writing assignment #3 **due at beginning of lecture and no later**

**Thursday 5/15:** David Hume on the sentiments and moral distinctions

-- Paper #2 assigned (**due: Tuesday 5/27**)

**Week 8:** David Hume: Goodness and Virtue

**Tuesday 5/20:** Moral distinctions and the sentiments; moral virtues

**Thursday 5/22:** The moral virtues

**Week 9:** Hume: Virtue and Aesthetic Judgment.

**Tuesday 5/27:** Moral virtues, cont'd; aesthetic judgments

-- **Paper #2 DUE**

**Thursday 5/29:** aesthetic judgments, cont'd.

--Short writing assignment #4 assigned (**due: Thursday 6/5**)

**Week 10:** David Hume: On Suicide

**Tuesday 6/3:** The permissibility of suicide

**Thursday 6/5:** Suicide, cont'd.; loose ends.

-- Short writing assignment #4 **due at the beginning of lecture and no later**

**Final Exam: Tuesday 6/10/2014 8-11 am**