

Philosophy C151B  
*Hume's Ethical Thought*  
Winter 2019  
MW 12:00-1:50p  
Bunche Hall 3150

Paul Tulipana  
Dodd 355  
[ptulipana@ucla.edu](mailto:ptulipana@ucla.edu)  
Office hours Tu 12-2 OBA

## Hume's Ethical Thought



This course offers a systematic study of David Hume's ethical philosophy. Hume's ethical ideas—most prominently on display in the later parts of the 1739-40 *Treatise of Human Nature* and in the 1751 *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*—have been profoundly influential since their inception, and continue to inspire moral philosophers today. In attempting to understand them, we'll pay special attention to their basis in Hume's theories of the mind and of the passions; to their background in 17th- and 18th-century British moral philosophy; and to their relation to Hume's philosophy of religion.

## Requirements

### Lectures

Regular attendance is expected, and participation is encouraged; these account for 10% of students' final grades. Students should exercise common courtesy to their instructors

and fellow classmates by avoiding the use of distracting applications during lecture, including email, web browsing, chat programs, etc.

## **Short essays**

Two short essays (roughly 1200 words in length each) will be assigned throughout the quarter. Each essay each will account for 30% of students' final grades. I'll be handing out possible essay topics in advance.

## **Final exam**

Students will write a take-home final exam during the end-quarter exam period. The exam will account for 30% of each student's final grade.

## **Late Assignments**

Late writing assignments will be penalized one third of one letter grade (i.e., A- becomes B+) every 24 hours, starting ten minutes after the deadline. Exceptions to the lateness policy will be made only in cases I deem exceptional.

## **Accessible Education Information**

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should submit their request for accommodations to the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) as soon as possible, as it may take up to two weeks for the CAE to review the request. If you are already registered with the CAE, you can request a letter of accommodation on the Student Portal, otherwise please submit your request via the CAE website. Please note that the CAE does not send letters to instructors--you must request that I view the letter in the online Faculty Portal. Once you have requested your accommodations via the Student Portal, please notify me immediately so I can view your letter.

For more information, please visit the CAE website ([www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)), visit the CAE at A255 Murphy Hall, or contact them by phone at (310) 825-1501.

## **Texts**

### **Required Books**

Hume, David. *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Oxford Philosophical Texts), new edition, eds. David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton / ISBN-10: 9780198751724

Hume, David. *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (Hackett Classics), 2nd edition, Richard H. Popkin ed. / ISBN-10: 9780872204027

## Schedule of Topics

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>Introduction</u>                                     | No reading  |
| 2. <u>Hume's project</u>                                   | <i>Treatise</i> , Contents (pp. vi-ix); "Introduction" (pp. 3-6); <i>An Abstract of a Book Lately Published</i> (pp. 405-417) |
| 3. <u>The theory of ideas</u>                              | <i>Treatise</i> 1.1, "Of ideas" (pp. 7-22)  |
| 4. <u>The problem of causality</u>                         | <i>Treatise</i> 1.3.1-7, 1.3.14, from "Of knowledge and probability" (pp. 50-69, 105-116)                                     |
| 5. <u>Personal identity</u>                                | <i>Treatise</i> 1.4.6, "Of personal identity" (pp. 164-171)   |
| <i>First short essay due near the beginning of week 4</i>  |   |
| 6. <u>Pride and humility</u>                               | <i>Treatise</i> 2.1, "Of pride and humility" (pp. 181-213)  |
| 7. <u>Love and hate</u>                                    | <i>Treatise</i> 2.2, "Of love and hatred" (pp. 214-256)   |
| 8. <u>Freedom and motivation</u>                           | <i>Treatise</i> 2.3, "Of the will and direct passions" (pp. 257-290)  |
| 9. <u>Reason and moral sense</u>                           | <i>Treatise</i> 3.1, "Of virtue and vice in general" (pp. 293-306)  |
| <i>Second short essay due near the beginning of week 7</i> |   |
| 10. <u>Artificial virtues</u>                              | <i>Treatise</i> 3.2, "Of justice and injustice" (pp. 307-366)   |
| 11. <u>Natural virtues</u>                                 | <i>Treatise</i> 3.3, "Of the other virtues and vices" (pp. 367-395)   |
| 12. <u>Religion and morality</u>                           | <i>Dialogues</i> IX-XIII (pp. xx-xx)  |