

Phil 1: The Nature of Philosophy
Topic: Skepticism
Fall 2023

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Office Hour:

Grades: Midterm (1/3), Final (2/3).

Extra-Credit: Class participation.

Announcements:

1. The class is an in-person class (not a hybrid class).
2. Students with COVID symptoms are not allowed in class.
3. **Statement Concerning Integrity:** See end of Syllabus

Schedule of Classes:

M 10/2	Introduction to Class
W 10/4	<i>Plato</i> : “Allegory of the Cave”
M 10/9	<i>Descartes</i> : Introduction. Read: <i>Discourse on Method</i> : Parts 1-3
W 10/11	<i>Discourse on Method</i> : Part 4 (1st page), <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : Meditation 1
M 10/16	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (1st and 2nd pages), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 2
W 10/18	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (Rest of Part 4), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 3
M 10/23	Continuation
W 10/25	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 5, <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 4
M 10/30	Review for Midterm
W 11/1	Midterm

- M 11/6 **Hume:** Introduction; Hume's Empiricism; Logical, Inductive, Causal Inference.
(*An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*: Sections 1-3)
- W 11/8 Hume's Skeptical Argument (An Abstract of *A Treatise of Human Nature*. In: *An Inquiry*, pp.183-198). Philosophers' Response.
- M 11/13 Hume's Reaction to his Skeptical Argument (*An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*: Sections 4-5)
- W 11/15 **Pessimistic Meta-Induction.**
- M 11/20 Cont.
- W 11/22 **Putnam:** "Brains in a Vat"
- M 11/27 Cont.
- W 11/29 **Nagel:** *The Last Word*: Chapters 1-2.
- M 12/4 Cont.
- W 12/6 Review for Final

Required Reading:

1. Plato: "Allegory of the Cave".
Canvas, under "files".
2. Descartes: *Discourse on Method & Meditations on First Philosophy*.
UCSD Bookstore
3. Hume: *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.
UCSD Bookstore
4. "Realism and Theory Change in Science". Section 2: "Scientific Realism and the Pessimistic Induction". *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Internet.
5. Putnam: "Brains in a Vat". Course electronic reserves (through Canvas)
6. Nagel: *The Last Word*, Chs. 1-2. Course electronic reserves (through Canvas)

Integrity Statement

Truthfulness and integrity are expected from all students.

The usual UCSD integrity requirements are in force.

In taking exams:

- (a) Do not bring notes to class or use your cell phone or any other internet connection or electronic device.
- (b) Do not give or receive help to/from anyone during the exam. After completing your exam and leaving the class, do not give help to anyone who is still taking the exam.

I wish you success in the exams, but remember: An exam is just an exam. Don't compromise your integrity for an exam.