

Phil 1: The Nature of Philosophy
Topic: Skepticism
Fall 2024

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

Extra-Credit: Class participation.

Schedule of Classes:

Th 9/26	Introduction to Class
T 10/1	<i>Plato</i> : “Allegory of the Cave”
Th 10/3	<i>Descartes</i> : Introduction. Read: <i>Discourse on Method</i> : Parts 1-3, Part 4 (1st page). <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : Meditation 1
T 10/8	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (1st and 2nd pages), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 2
Th 10/10	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (Rest of Part 4), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 3
T 10/15	Continuation
Th 10/17	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 5, <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 4
T 10/22	Continuation
Th 10/24	Review for Midterm
T 10/29	Midterm
Th 10/31	<i>Hume</i> : Introduction; Hume's Empiricism; Logical, Inductive, Causal Inference. (<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> : Sections 1-3)
T 11/5	Hume's Skeptical Argument (An Abstract of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> . (<i>Inquiry</i> , pp.183-198). Philosophers' Response.

Th 11/7	Hume's Reaction to his Skeptical Argument (<i>Inquiry</i> , Sections 4-5)
T 11/12	<i>Pessimistic Meta-Induction.</i>
Th 11/14	Cont.
T 11/19	<i>Putnam</i> : “Brains in a Vat”
Th 11/21	Cont.
T 11/26	<i>Nagel: The Last Word</i> : Chapters 1-2.
Th 11/28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.
T 12/3	Cont.
Th 12/5	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)