Philosophy 473B: Hume  
Spring 2008

Professor Andrew Youpa  
Office: Faner 3039  
Office hours: 3:30-5:30 Tues, Wed, Thurs, and by appointment.  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course is an examination of Hume’s philosophy through a close reading of his masterpiece, *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Among the topics that will be covered are the following: the origin of ideas, the scope and limits of knowledge, the nature of causation, personal identity, freedom of the will, the foundation of morality, and skepticism.

REQUIRED TEXTS  
Garrett, *Cognition and Commitment in Hume’s Philosophy* (Oxford)

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING  
Attendance = 20% (grade: 0-2 absences = A; 3 or more absences = F)  
Paper #1 = 20%  
Paper #2 = 30%  
Final paper = 30%

GRADUATE GRADING  
Paper #1 = 25%; paper #2 = 25%; final paper = 25%; in-class presentation = 25%

SCHEDULE (Note that this schedule is subject to change.)  
Week One—Course introduction  
January 17

Week Two—Origin of ideas, association of ideas, and abstract ideas  
January 24: read Hume, 3-31  
Recommended reading: Garrett, 3-40, “Introduction” & “Cognition and Imagination”

Week Three  

Week Four—Knowledge, causation, and the nature of belief  
February 7: Hume, 50-85

Week Five—Probability and the nature of causation  
February 14: Hume, 86-120  
**Paper #1 is due at the beginning of class.**
Week Six
February 21: Garrett, 76-117, “Reason and Induction” & “Two Definitions of ‘Cause’"

Week Seven—Skepticism and external objects
February 28: Hume, 121-152

Week Eight—Skepticism and personal identity
March 6: Hume, 164-178 & Garrett, 163-186, “Personal Identity”

SPRING BREAK, March 8-16

Week Nine
March 20: Paper #2 is due at the beginning of class.

Week Ten—Passions, pride, humility, and sympathy
March 27: Hume, 181-213

Week Eleven—Passions, will, and freedom
April 3: Hume, 257-290

Week Twelve—Morality, reason, and moral sentiments
April 10: Hume, 293-322 & 337-342

Week Thirteen—The natural virtues and sympathy
April 17: Hume, 367-401

Week Fourteen

Week Fifteen
May 1: Garrett, 205-241, “Skepticism and Commitment”

Final Exam Week
The final paper is due at my office no later than 4pm on Monday, May 5.