

ASSIGNMENT 8

due Wednesday, November 14

Instructions

By Monday, November 5:

- Finish reading the excerpts from Hume, from the previous assignment.

Study for the exam on Wednesday, November 7. I will hold the following office hours:

Monday, 2:30-3:15

Tuesday, 1-3

Wednesday, 9-10

Note that the Monday hour has been shortened, Tuesday's hours have been added, and Wednesday is as usual. See the additional notes about the exam at the end of this assignment.

By Friday, November 9:

- Read Chapter 8 of TTT, through page 204.

By Monday, November 12:

- Continue reading Chapter 8, through page 210.

If you have not had calculus or are not comfortable with it, don't worry about the mathematical details of the argument on pages 207-209. But make sure you understand the goal of the calculation, expressed at the top of page 208, and Price's conclusion, described at the bottom of page 209.

By Wednesday, November 14:

- Finish reading Chapter 8. The section "Bounded rationality and Bayesian problems" on pages 215-217 is optional.

By Friday, November 16:

- Read Chapter 9 of TTT, through the end of page 228.

Turn in the homework assignment at the beginning of class on Wednesday, November 14.

Homework assignment

1. In the Berkeley's *First Dialogue*, Hylas proposes that heat, odor, color, sound, extension, motion, and solidity are all properties of external bodies, until Philonous convinces him that he is mistaken in each case. What are the arguments that Philonous uses to show that heat is not a property of physical objects? What about extension? (M)
2. According to Section I of Hume's enquiry, what are the common criticisms of philosophy? What is the most "perfect character"? (S)

3. What is the distinction that Hume makes between “demonstrative reasoning” and “moral reasoning” in Section IV, Part II, of his *Enquiry*? (S)
4. At the end of Section IV, Part II, Hume explains that he has tried to show that “it is not reasoning which engages us to suppose the past resembling the future, and to expect similar effects from causes, which are, to appearance, similar.” Outline the arguments that Hume has presented to make the case. (L)
5. Suppose I roll two dice, one red and one green. Then there are 36 possible outcomes; for example, $\langle 1,5 \rangle$ represents the outcome that the red die reads 1 and the green die reads 5. Assume each of these outcomes is equally likely. Then for each of the events listed below, list the outcomes which constitute the event (for example, event A is the set $\{ \langle 5,6 \rangle, \langle 6,5 \rangle \}$), and then determine the probability that the event occurs.
 - a. Event A: The sum of the two dice is 11.
 - b. Event B: The sum of the two dice is 9.
 - c. Event C: The sum of the two dice is at least 8.
 - d. Event D: The red die reads 6
 - e. Event E: The green die reads 6
 - f. Event F: Both dice read 6
 - g. Event G: At least one die reads 6
 - h. Event H: The sum of the two dice is even.
6. As in problem 1, list the outcomes which constitute the event, and determine the probability that the event occurs.
 - a. The union of events A and B
 - b. The union of events A and D
 - c. The intersection of events C and D
 - d. The intersection of events D and H
 - e. The complement of event D
7. Are events A and B incompatible? What about A and D? Explain.
8. Are events C and D independent? What about D and H? Explain.

Thought questions

1. According to Locke’s characterizations, give examples of (1) simple ideas of sense, (2) simple ideas of reflection, and (3) complex ideas (involving simple ideas of either sense or reflection, or both).
2. Does Locke succeed in showing that there are no innate ideas? Explain how a rationalist like Descartes might respond to Locke’s arguments.
3. According to Berkeley, what guarantees that objects continue to exist even when they are not perceived by any human being?

4. TTT, study question 2 on page 195. How does Berkeley's views on matter, and his criticism of calculus, support a belief in God?
5. Discuss the features that are common to the epistemological views of Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.
6. Optional: TTT, study questions 1 and 2 on page 179.
7. TTT, review questions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 on pages 188-189.
8. TTT, study question 1 on page 195.

Notes for the second midterm exam

The second midterm will cover all material since the first midterm (i.e. from Leibniz onwards), through topics covered in class on Monday, November 5. It will be similar in format to the first exam.

I will *not* ask you to name the specific dates that philosophers and scientists were born and died, nor will I ask you to name the dates of their major works. But you should be able to place the major figures we have considered in chronological order, and place the dates above to within, say, 50 years. So, for example, you should know that Galileo's life spanned the turn of the 17th century, that Descartes lived in the first half of the 17th century, and that Newton's *Principia* was first published towards the end of the 17th century.