

Phil. 126 updated with two new topics, 4/4/24
Course Papers: Info/ Topics

Directions: Write a 2,000 – 2,800 word (about 6-8 pages, typed, double-spaced) paper. Papers are due April 17, by the start of lecture. Successful papers will clearly explain the issues involved and the key argumentative moves made in the readings and/or discussed in class and sections, and will also advance the discussion/argument in significant ways with new considerations or lines of argument of your own. Papers should either be on one of the assigned topics, or, if you instead want to write on a topic of your own choice, you should submit your proposal to your TF by March 29 for approval.

1. Explain and critically evaluate Locke's case against innate principles and ideas in Book One of his *Essays Concerning Human Understanding*.
2. Explain and critically compare Locke's and Berkeley's views on primary vs. secondary qualities of bodies. Which is the more defensible view? Defend your answer.
3. On Leibniz's views, could a monad have existed with a different set of properties to the ones which it actually has? Explain two different interpretations of Leibniz's essentialism and how this question is answered on each interpretation. Which interpretation do you think best captures Leibniz's position? Discuss its plausibility.
4. What does it take for an action to be freely performed, on Leibniz's views? How does Leibniz think we can ever act freely, if our actions are just the working out of what was contained in our individual concepts all along? Critically evaluate Leibniz's account of free action in the light of what you take to be strongest objections to it.
5. Explain and critically evaluate Berkeley's argument in *Principles I (Part One)*, sects. 18-20.
6. Explain the main argument Hume advances in Part IV of his *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, concisely but accurately: What conclusion is he arguing for, and what are the main steps by which argues for it? Critically evaluate Hume's argument in light of what you take to be the strongest potential objection to it.
7. Explain and critically evaluate the account of necessary connection that Hume advances in section VII of his *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, and the procedure by which he arrives at that account.