

# Advanced Early Modern Philosophy

Phil 5120/6120 – **NON-Hybrid** Course

Course Theme: **PHILOSOPHY of JOHN LOCKE**

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**COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Lex Newman**

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A detailed syllabus of the course will be available at the start of the semester. In the meantime, here is some *preliminary* course information – all *provisional*:

## NON-Hybrid Course

Unfortunately, the Schedule of Classes lists our course as "**Hybrid**". This is a bit misleading: Students should simply think of this as an *in-person* course meeting once per week, 5:30-8:30 pm, on Wednesdays. Because the Hybrid designation allows instructors lots of flexibility to mix both *online* and *in-person* elements, as they see fit, it will be useful to keep that designation: in case I have to miss 1 or 2 class meetings (for academic conference presentations), I'll post those particular week's lectures online, as video files, rather than cancelling class. But otherwise, again, just think of this as an *in-person* class.

## Course Content

Because this is an *advanced* history of philosophy course (5000-level Area III), it should not be the very first history of philosophy course you have ever taken. The course focuses on the philosophy of John Locke, as presented in his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. The themes of this work focus on a fairly traditional menu of topics in metaphysics and epistemology (M&E), including: the nature of knowledge, perception, mind, body, freewill, substance, personal identity, language, representation, and God – among others. Though the course is mostly oriented around M&E issues, we may do a bit of work on Locke's moral theory.

## Grading

Course enrollment includes a mix of advanced undergraduate philosophy majors (Phil 5120) and philosophy graduate students (Phil 6120). For Phil 5120, course grades are likely to be based on two in-person *essay exams*, a *paper*, and *quizzes*. For Phil 6120, course grades are likely to be based on two in-person *essay exams*, a *substantial paper*, and a *presentation*.

## Canvas

Course materials (links to readings, assignments, syllabus info, etc.) will be supported through Canvas – the course Canvas pages should be up and running the week before class begins.

## Course Texts

There is one required text – Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. You may use any version of this text, including free online texts. If you do not already have a copy of this work, here is a list three wonderful options for the text (take your pick):

**Option 1:** Free version (online): <http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/locke>

**Option 2:** Budget paperback:

- Editor: Kenneth Winkler
- Publisher: Hackett
- ISBN: 087220216X / 978-0872202160
- Amazon link:  
<https://www.amazon.com/Essay-Concerning-Human-Understanding/dp/087220216X/>

**Option 3:** Scholarly edition (recommended for graduate students, or student serious about pursuing scholarly study of early modern philosophy):

- Editor: Peter Nidditch
- Publisher: Oxford
- ISBN: 0198245955 / 978-0198245957
- Amazon link:  
<https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0198245955/>