



BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Summer, 2024

**Introduction to Hume: The *Enquiries* Concerning Human
Understanding and The Principles of Morals**

COURSE INFORMATION		
COURSE TITLE Introduction to Hume: The <i>Enquiries</i> Concerning Human Understanding and The Principles of Morals	CODE & SECTION BASC 70252 24U1	LENGTH OF COURSE 8 weeks June 12 to August 7, 2024 No class June 19
COURSE SCHEDULE DAYS: Wednesday 9:30am-12:45pm	CLASS LOCATION Online	INSTRUCTOR Clare Pearson EMAIL: pearson5478@comcast.net

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will take up the groundbreaking work of David Hume, specifically looking at the innovative theories of understanding and morality that catalyzed Kant's career as an attempt to prove Hume wrong. Hume's take on the nature of thinking breaks what was radical new ground at the time, rejecting many traditional core concepts as imaginary and fictional, including the concepts of both causality and freedom. A remarkably cogent writer, Hume's thinking, in its core ideas, in the arguments used to support them, and in the ramifications of those ideas, remains critically important and is always interesting to wrestle with. We will undertake a careful reading of his short works (both of which condense longer ones), *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* and *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, using the Hackett editions, and always paying attention to the philosophical, scientific, and pragmatic consequences of his theories. (Given that translation is not an issue, other editions are acceptable). Please read sections 1-4 for of *Human Understanding* for the first class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding: with Hume's Abstract of A Treatise of Human Nature and A Letter from a Gentleman to His Friend in Edinburgh; Hackett Classics) Second Edition, ISBN 978-0-872202290*
- David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals; Hackett Classics, 1983, ISBN 978-0-915145454*

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

(Please note that the schedule is approximate and may be adjusted to the needs and pace of the class)

WEEK	Author	TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT
Week 1 Date: June 12	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding:</i> 1) (recommended) appended "Abstract of A Treatise on Human Nature" (which serves and Hume's introduction)-pp. 125-138, and 2) Enquiry, sections 1-4, pp 1-25
Week 2 Date: June 26	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding,</i> sections 5-7, pp. 25-53
Week 3 Date: July 3	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding,</i> sections 8-10
Week 4 Date: July 10	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> sections 11-12 and concluding discussion of text
Week 5 Date: July 17	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals,</i> sections 1-4, pp. 13-38
Week 6 Date: July 24	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals,</i> sections 5-7, pp 38-68
Week 7 Date: July 31	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals,</i> sections 8-9, and sections 1 & 2 of Hume's Appendix. pp. 68-93
Week 8 Date: August 7	Hume	<i>An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals,</i> sections 3& 4 of Hume's Appendix, and "A Dialogue" General concluding discussion

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.