

Paper Topic
Philosophy 172
Fall, 2015

Due: November 16, 2015 in class

Write an essay of roughly 4-6 pages on the following topic. Use the *Essay concerning Human Understanding* and the *Principles of Human Knowledge* as the basis of your work. Be sure to quote the text whenever you attribute a claim to Locke or Berkeley. You may use the numbering convention for the *Essay* as follows: 1.1.1 for Book 1, Chapter 1, Section 1. Citations from the *Principles* are by section number, except for the Introduction, where the section numbers should be prefixed with 'I.' Papers not turned in on the day due will be penalized progressively, with the penalties increasing each two working days overdue. Papers should be double-spaced (3 lines per inch) with ample room in the margins for comments.

Write on **one** of the following topics.

1. In the *Essay*, Locke argues that general words signify abstract general ideas. Show what Locke's case was for this claim, describing what abstract general ideas are, how they are formed, and what role they play in the use of language. Then show how Berkeley criticized Locke's notion, as well as what he proposed to substitute in its place. Finally, comment on which view you find to be more plausible.
2. In the *Essay*, Locke argues for the "reality" of "sensitive knowledge" of the existence of physical objects external to the mind. Show how Locke argued for this view, then show how Berkeley argued in the *Principles* against this view. Comment on which of the two views you find to be more plausible.