415-01: Ethical Theory: Hume
Fall 2015, August 24th-December 11th
Tuesday 5-7:50
Gannett 2050
Mr. Robison, Hale Chair in Applied Ethics

IMPORTANT:

Electronic devices: All cellphones are to be off in class: no answering, no calling, no texting.

No incompletes; plan your life accordingly.

Hume Text:

Enquiries Concerning Hume Understanding and the Principles of Morals — we are only looking at the Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals

Helpful:

A Treatise of Human Nature
Essays: Moral, Political, and Literary
Abstract of a Treatise concerning Human Nature
A History of England
Dialogues concerning Natural Religion
A Natural History of Religion

Weeks

1 August 25th
Introduction: Requirements & aims of course; Hume and his work; Sayre-McCord’s view

2 September 1st
Hume’s attack on the rationalists and his enlightenment project
Reading: Treatise, Book III, Part I

3 September 8th
Baumstark, “The Biographical Background of the Second Enquiry”
Enquiry, Section 1

4 September 15th
Enquiry, Section 2, Benevolence
Calvo, “Benevolence and Self-Interest in Hume’s Moral Philosophy”

5 September 22nd
Enquiry, Sections 3-4, Justice; Appendix III, Some Farther Considerations With Regard to Justice
Harris, “Justice in an Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals”

6 September 29th
Enquiry, Sections 5
Pitson, “Sympathy, Humanity and the Foundations of Morals”

7 October 6th
Enquiry, Section 6
Heydt, “Hume’s Innovative Taxonomy of the Virtues”
8 October 13th -- no class
9 October 20th
  *Enquiry*, Sections 7-8
10 October 27th
  *Enquiry*, Section 9 and discussion of Hume’s moral theory
11 November 3rd
  *Enquiry*, Appendices I, II, and IV
12 November 10th -- Draft of paper due, in hard copy
  Gill, 1-54
13 November 17th
  Gill, 55-91
14 November 24th
  Gill, 92-139
Thanksgiving
15 December 1st
  Gill, 140-196
16 December 8th
  Summary of Hume's moral theory; final paper due, in hard copy, with draft attached