

Q2 WEEK 1 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. Perception – some philosophical questions about it
2. The validity of the senses and some of the arguments that seek to challenge their validity

READINGS

1. Sextus Empiricus – *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* (please read portions in red brackets; ignore handwritten brackets)
2. Descartes – *Meditations* 1 and 2 – review what he says about sense-perception in these two Meditations
3. Locke – *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpts from Book II)
4. Berkeley – *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (excerpts, sections 1-24)
5. Ayn Rand Lexicon: [Perception](#)
6. OPAR, Ch.2., sec.1 and the introductory material before sec.1

Q2 WEEK 2 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. Perceptual awareness: form and object
2. Free will and Determinism – The Philosophical Debate

READINGS

1. OPAR Ch.2, sec 2-4
2. ITOE Ch.8 (starting with the paragraph “To grasp and reclaim the power of philosophy...” to the end of the chapter)
3. ITOE Appendix: Chapter “Entities and Their Makeup”, section “The Primary-Secondary Quality Dichotomy as Fallacious” (pp.279-282 in my softcover edition)
4. Holbach – *Ch. XI from A System of Nature (Vol. 1)*
5. Hume – [Section 8 from An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding](#) (simplified; website)

6. Mill – [Of Liberty and Necessity from A System of Logic \(website\)](#)
7. Sam Harris – [2012 talk on free will](#) from 06:13 to 1:01:42 (note that the version of the talk I linked to for the recorded class is no longer available online)
8. “Isn’t Everyone Selfish?” (VOS, Ch. 5)

Q2 WEEK 3 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. Free will and determinism – What issues does an adequate theory of free will need to conceptualize and what questions does it need to answer?
2. Free Will – The Primary Choice

READINGS

1. Ayn Rand Lexicon: [Free will](#); [Focus](#); [Evasion](#); [Character](#)
2. OPAR Ch. 2, sec. 5

Q2 WEEK 4 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. Primary and secondary choices
2. Choice, causality and volition as an axiom

READINGS

1. OPAR Ch. 2, sec. 6
2. OPAR Ch. 2., sec. 7

Q2 WEEK 5 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. Concepts; Plato’s approach to concepts
2. The Problem of Universals – Aristotle vs Plato

READINGS

1. Ayn Rand, *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, “Foreword to the First Edition”
2. Plato, *Meno*. Read from the beginning of the dialogue up to 86c [see the embedded reference numbers in brackets]– that’s pp. 1-15 in the linked PDF)
3. Plato, *Phaedo*. Read sections [64a-67e](#); [72e-84b](#); [96a-100e](#). On the perseus.tufts.edu web version of *Phaedo* linked to here, you should read pp. 64-67; pp. 72-84; pp. 96-100 – a list of the pages of *Phaedo* are shown on the left side of the screen in the Table of Contents section. The three links here take you to the first page of each of the three sections to read.
4. Plato, *Republic Book V*, sections [473d-end](#) of Book V.
5. [Selections from Aristotle’s *Categories*, *Posterior Analytics*, *Physics*, *Metaphysics* and *De Anima*](#)
6. [Selections from Aristotle’s *On Ideas*](#)

Q2 WEEK 6 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. The Problem of Universals: Abelard, Locke, Berkeley and Hume
2. The Objectivist theory of concepts: measurement, isolation and abstraction

READINGS

1. Peter Abelard [1079-1142] – [Brief excerpt](#) (from [here](#))
2. John Locke [1632-1704] – [Excerpts from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*](#)
3. George Berkeley [1685-1753] – [Introduction to *The Principles of Human Knowledge*](#)
4. David Hume [1711-1776] – [Excerpt from *Treatise of Human Nature*](#)
5. ITOE, Ch. 1-2, 4
6. OPAR, Ch. 3, sec. 1-2

Q2 WEEK 7 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. The Objectivist theory of concepts: abstractions, abstraction from abstractions, and the cognitive role of concepts
2. The Objectivist theory of concepts: definitions

READINGS

1. ITOE, Ch. 3, 7 and 8
2. OPAR, Ch. 3, sec. 3 and 5
3. ITOE, Ch. 5
4. OPAR, Ch. 3, sec. 4

Q2 WEEK 8 - TOPICS & READINGS

TOPICS

1. The Objectivist theory of concepts and the analytic-synthetic dichotomy
2. Conceptualization: essentials, package-deals, and anti-concepts.

READINGS

1. "The Analytic-Synthetic Dichotomy" in ITOE
2. "'Extremism' or The Art of Smearing" (CUI)
3. "America's Persecuted Minority: Big Business" (CUI)
4. "Collectivized 'Rights'" (VOS)
5. "Counterfeit Individualism" (Branden, VOS)