

End of Unit 4 Writing Assignment

The writing assignment for the end of Unit 4 is a 500–700 word answer to one of the following six questions. Your responses should be mainly expository, focusing on careful readings of the relevant texts. This is an exercise in interpretation, though some critical assessment is, as always, welcome. Be specific. Original illustration is welcome. A hard copy of the writing assignment is due at the beginning of class, Thursday, April 28.

1. Describe Hume’s distinction between relations of ideas and matters of fact. How do we learn propositions that are solely concerned with relations of ideas?
2. “Thus the observation of human blindness and weakness is the result of all philosophy...” (Hume, *Enquiry* §IV.1, AW 544b). Explain. Why does Hume make this conclusion?
3. What is the connection between the problem of induction and the principle of the uniformity of nature? Do we know about the causal structure of the universe?
4. How does Hume define ‘cause’? How does his view differ from traditional views? Does his definition solve the problem of induction?
5. How is compatibilism different from the two main incompatibilist views about freedom? Does either Leibniz or Hume show that we are both free and determined?
6. Describe Reid’s case of the old general. Why is it a problem for Locke’s account of personal identity? Be specific. How does Hume’s view differ from those of Locke and Reid?