

**First Paper Topic**  
**Philosophy 174**  
**Winter, 2020**

**Due: January 27, 2020 in class**

Write an essay of a little more than three pages on the following topic. Use the *Treatise* and the *Enquiry* (if appropriate) as the basis of your work. Be sure to quote the text whenever you attribute a claim to Hume. You may use the numbering convention of the *Treatise* text edition (e.g., 1.1.1.1 for Book 1, Part 1, Section 1, paragraph 1) and the marginal numbers in the *Enquiry* text edition. 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, with ample room in the margins for comments.

Throughout the *Treatise*, Hume appeals to the so-called “copy principle,” according to which “*all our simple ideas in their first appearance are deriv’d from simple impressions, which are correspondent to them, and which they exactly represent*” (1.1.1.7).

Explain the meaning of this principle and how it is supposed to be established in the *Treatise*. Explain how Hume uses this principle to support a major philosophical claim such as:

- It is impossible for our abstract ideas to represent no particular degrees of quantity or quality. (1.1.7, 1.3.1).
- The idea of extension is nothing more than that of colored points disposed in a certain way (1.2.3).

Show how Hume applies the principle to **one** of the two cases listed, or another case if you wish. Comment on which principle is more plausible: the principle Hume has rejected or the copy principle.