

Reading Assignment 12: Primary Qualities

Assigned Reading

- Galileo. “The Assayer.” In M. Oster. *Science in Europe, 1500-1800: a primary sources reader*. Palgrave, 2002. Pages 73-75.
- Galileo. “History and Demonstrations Concerning Sunspots.” In G. Galilei. *The Essential Galileo*. Ed. by M. A. Finocchiaro. Hackett Publishing, 2008. Chapter 3. Pages 101-102.
- J. Locke. *An essay concerning human understanding*. Ed. by J. Bennett. 2015
 - Book II. Chapter II.
 - Book II. Chapter VIII. Articles 8-17.
 - Book IV. Chapter III. Articles 11- 14.
- Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. In R. Descartes. *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*. Ed. by J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, and D. Murdoch. Vol. 2. Cambridge University Press, 1984. First Meditation. Pages 12-16.

Due Date

Please bring a typed, hard copy of your answers to class on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017.

Technical Requirements

Answer questions one, two, four, and six below. Together, your answers should not be longer than a single typed page. Remember to provide page numbers indicating which passages you are paraphrasing. For the remaining optional questions, please write down the page numbers on which the authors address the question.

Questions

1. According to Galileo, in what ways are heat, odor, taste, and tickling similar?
2. According to Galileo, how can we come to understand sunspots just as well as objects on Earth?
3. What does Locke intend to show using the example involving a grain of wheat?
4. According to Locke, how do we obtain ideas of secondary qualities? How is Locke’s answer related to his claim that “Ideas of primary qualities are resemblances; of secondary, not?”
5. In your own words, explain what you think Locke means when he asserts, “[a] necessary connexion between any secondary and the primary qualities is undiscoverable by us.”
6. According to Descartes, what are the “the real colours from which we form all the images of things” including images in dreams? What areas of knowledge, therefore, may not be susceptible to the doubts that arise when one considers the possibility that he is dreaming?