

Reading Assignment 9: Hooke's Micrographia

ASSIGNED READING Excerpts from R. Hooke. *Micrographia*. 1665.

DUE DATE Please bring a typed, hard copy of your answers to class on Thursday, February 2nd, 2017.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS Answer questions one, three, and five 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. In your own words, explain what a microscope could be used to discover, according to Hooke, that Peripatetic philosophers tried to explain using the concepts of “matter” and “form.” Give a concrete example. [Note: You’ll need to be creative, as Hooke doesn’t provide an example in this passage].
2. In what way does Hooke hope his work is analogous to that of glass-grinders?
3. According to Hooke, what was the cause of the “fatal” errors that natural philosophers committed in the past, and how might the Royal Society have reduced those errors?
4. What do the objects that Hooke views in observations I, II, and V have in common? Why might Hooke have investigated those objects under a microscope first?
5. How did Hooke explain why cork is springy, in the sense that it can be compressed, but will return to its natural shape afterwards?

REFERENCES [1] R. Hooke. *Micrographia*. 1665.