

# David Hume: The Limits of Reason

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Each student in the class will be given (free) a 28-page handout, the contents of which are as follows:

## Week 1: Intro

I.	Dennis Rasmussen on Hume & Smith	1
II.	What I'm going to try to show in this course	2
III.	The contemporary psychological view of the mind	3

## Week 2: God & Religion: Hume & Smith

I.	Works on Religion: Hume and Smith	4
II.	Some interesting religious history involving Hume/Smith	5
III.	Death of Hume [publication problems with Dialogues, and Smith's "Letter to Strahan"]	6-7
IV.	Some of Hume's arguments against God	8-9
V.	Miracles	10
VI.	Suicide	11
VII.	Where Hume and Smith agreed on religion.	11-12

## Week 3: Knowledge: Hume

I.	Analytic/Synthetic Distinction	13
II.	How this distinction leads to skepticism	13-14
III.	Hume's theory of mind and the association of ideas	15
IV.	Quiz on the association of ideas	16
V.	Compare the libertarian and contemporary psychological theories of mind	17
VI.	How Hume's view of human nature sets the stage for his (and Adam Smith's) view of morality	18

## Week 4: Morality: Hume & Smith

I.	Hume's theory of moral sentiments	19
II.	Virtues of Hume's theory	19-20
III.	How Smith differs from Hume	20
IV.	Summary	21

## Week 5: Rights, the "social contract," and justice: Hume & Smith

I.	Natural rights	22
II.	The social contract	23
III.	Justice	23

## Week 6: Smith's The Wealth of Nations

I.	Is Smith really the father of free-market capitalism? (+ Invisible Hand)	24
II.	Mercantilism	25
III.	Hume/Smith compared to free-market capitalists	26
IV.	"Smith's Problem"	27
V.	Summary	28