

Winter 2027

PHILOSOP 9506: Locke and Hume on Property

AREA

MPL and History

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The most basic philosophical question about rights in private property is whether they are natural or conventional. Locke is commonly treated as the most important defender of the former view and Hume of the latter. We will look at their accounts carefully and ask whether the contrast between them is quite that simple. Our focus will be on the primary sources, but we will also read some classic and important recent scholarship on Locke and Hume.