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**Week Seven Assignment**

Here's the assignment for week seven, the brief version first, then the fuller version. There’s a lot of reading this week, and the ideas we’ll be exploring are absolutely fascinating.

**Readings:** First half of Schopenhauer’s The World as Will and Representation, specifically [these sections](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schoprdings.html)

**Study Questions:** [SQs for the first half of Schopenhauer](http://philosophycourse.info/SQsite/schopsq1.html)

(By the way, his name is pronounced: SHOPE un hour)

**Mini-lectures:**

• [The rationalists and empiricists](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-emps.html)

• [Introduction to George Berkeley](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-berke.html)

• [Introduction to David Hume](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-hume.html)

• [Introduction to Immanuel Kant](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kant.html)

• [An outline of Immanuel Kant’s metaphysic](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kantoutline.html)

• [Introduction to Arthur Schopenhauer](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-intro.html)

• [Schopenhauer and Buddhism’s Four Noble Truths](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-budd.html)

• [Schopenhauer on The World as Representation](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-rep.html)

• [Pronunciations and definitions of seven words in Schopenhauer’s Philosophy](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schopdefs.html)

• [Our Schopenhauer home page](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schop-homepg.html)

**Discussion Questions:**

• [George Berkeley lecture](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-berke.html)

• [David Hume lecture](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-hume.html)

• Immanuel Kant lectures [one](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kant.html) and [two](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kantoutline.html)

• [First half of Schopenhauer readings](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schoprdings.html)

**Memorize and recite:** One passage from Schopenhauer

**Due date:** 6pm Wed evening

**Now a few notes on a couple of these things:**

**Readings & SQs:** You’re officially beginning to read Schopenhauer this week, probably the most difficult of the books we’ll be reading this quarter. You have two weeks to read the assigned portions of the book. See the [Schopenhauer web page](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schop-homepg.html) on the class website for details on which pages and sections you’ll be reading this week.

Schopenhauer can be difficult to understand the first time through, so I encourage you to ask questions in the classroom about what you’re reading.

As with all our readings this quarter, your job as a reader is two-fold:

1st. to understand what the author is saying;

2nd to raise your own questions and make your own personal assessments about what that author is saying.

It is important that the first step be completed first, and the second step not be undertaken prematurely before the first step has been adequately completed. It is, after all, much easier to make quick and superficial judgments about an author (and about people too) the less you know about them. So our primary effort this week and next will be to first understand what Schopenhauer is saying and what his reasons are for saying that. The lectures this week are intended to help a little with that, but your best success will come from spending lots of time with the book itself, and also from asking questions in the classroom. The study questions should help too; and perhaps even reading your classmates’ answers to the study questions will help.

**Mini-lectures:**

The lectures are intended to be read in the order in which they are listed above. That’s the historical order in which these Philosophers lived, and each one studied the writings of the authors who came before him; so they will be easier for you to make sense of if you read them in the order they occurred.

You should read and discuss the lectures on [Berkeley](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-berke.html), [Hume](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-hume.html) and [Kant](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kant.html) early in the week, because these provide much of the epistemological background and foundation for Schopenhauer’s own thinking. You can then focus more on Schopenhauer’s Die Welt toward the end of the week.

**Discussion Qs:** The discussion assignment this week is fourfold:

• Discuss the [lecture on George Berkeley](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-berke.html)

• Discuss the [lecture on David Hume](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-hume.html)

• Discuss the two [lectures on Immanuel Kant](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kant.html)

• Discuss the Schopenhauer readings and lectures for the week

This week I have not provided you specific, already written-out discussion questions for the lecture materials, but am instead expecting that you’ll find plenty of material in the lectures and in Schopenhauer to raise these questions for yourselves. Your first effort should be to make sure you simply understand what the lecture material is saying. Later, after you’re pretty clear on that, then start exploring the questions raised by the lectures.

Our study of epistemology continues this week. I hope you find it enjoyable and provocative.