

CORC 3310: Paradoxes and the Limits of Knowledge

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SCHEDULE Tuesday/Thursday, 2:15-3:30pm (3117 B)
TEXT Paradoxes, R. M. Sainsbury (2009)

DESCRIPTION

Socrates says that philosophy begins in wonder; and the most reliable source of philosophical wonder is the paradox. In this class we will examine some well-known paradoxes, consider when/if/and to what extent paradoxes should be taken seriously, gauge the adequacy of some purported solutions, and try to figure out what makes something a paradox in the first place. Topics will include logical and mathematical paradoxes, paradoxes about the physical world, moral paradoxes, linguistic paradoxes, and paradoxes about rationality and knowledge.

GRADES

Grades are based on homework assignments (20%), the midterm (25%), the final (25%), a brief term paper (20%), and participation (10%). Details of these will be discussed in class.

Keep in mind that participation is an important factor of your grade, so come prepared to speak. Also, keep in mind that **late work will not be accepted** unless arrangements have been made prior to the assignment's due date, and make-up work will most likely not be available.

REQUIREMENTS

- Keep your attendance punctual: avoid tardiness and excessive absences
- Participate in class
- Keep up with the readings: if you skip a reading here and there, it becomes increasingly difficult to follow the discussion

OBJECTIVES

- To learn to better identify and evaluate arguments
- To learn to articulate complex philosophical positions and debates
- To learn the relevant terminology and how to use it properly
- To learn to present ideas and engage others in an intellectually rigorous environment

STATEMENT ON STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center or Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>

If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation.