

EPISTEMOLOGY: THE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE PHIL 3410 TY2

Tues: 2:15-3:30 Thurs: 1:25-3:30 Room: 3305 Boylan Brooklyn College Fall 2012	Instructor: Professor Lurz Office: 3307 Boylan phone: 951-5311 rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu Office hours: Tues & Thurs. 1-1:25
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to introduce students to a number of important philosophical issues and theories on the nature of knowledge. Issues such as – the analysis of knowledge, skepticism, foundationalism vs. coherentism, externalism vs. internalism, and theories of perception, a priori knowledge, and the ethics of belief – are examined and discussed from classical and contemporary philosophical perspectives. This is an excellent course for students who are interested in philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, and philosophy of science. This course is also a required course for option I or II philosophy majors.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *The Theory of Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Readings* (3rd edition) by Louis P. Pojman, Wadsworth Publishing. This text may be purchased at BC's bookstore in the basement of Boylan Hall, or online.

COURSE GOALS: By the end of the semester, you should be familiar with, and be able to articulate in writing, a number of important philosophical problems and theories in epistemology; you should be familiar with a number of major philosophical figures and their views in epistemology; you should have acquired the basic skills of writing a philosophical (argumentative) essay and reading philosophical material; and you should have acquired the ability to analyze and evaluate a selection from a philosophical text, a philosophical theory, issue or argument.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: One term paper, a midterm exam, final exam, and class participation and attendance. (Term paper = 30%; Midterm = 30%; Final = 30%; Class Participation and Attendance = 10%) = 100%

PAPERS: The paper is six pages in length (not including cover page or reference page). Instructions and demonstration on how to write a philosophy paper will be offered. Paper topics will be distributed two to three weeks before papers are due.

EXAMS: The midterm exam and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and a short essay. The final exam will be cumulative; although, its emphasis will be on the material covered since the midterm.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is recorded each session. Students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions. Students late for class may be excluded from the room.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Unless the instructor has given prior permission to hand in a late assignment, all late assignment will be marked down one grade level (e.g., from a B to an C).

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.

CENTER FOR 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 for 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.

Non-attendance because of religious beliefs: See p. 49 in the 2011-2012 Bulletin

MATURITY: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner. **CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. TEXTING DURING CLASS IS NOT ALLOWED. SLEEPING STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM.**

GRADES: A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59

SYLLABUS (Subject to change):

Dates	Subject Matter & Readings	Dates	Subject Matter & Readings
	I. Analysis of Knowledge .. Gettier (pp. 125-126) .. Feldman (p. 127-128) II. Skepticism .. Descartes (pp. 22-39) .. Unger (handout) .. Lewis (pp. 334-347) III. Foundationalism vs. Coherentism .. McGrew (pp. 194-206) .. Dancy (pp. 206-215)		I. Theories of A priori Knowledge .. Ayer (pp. 378-385) .. Ewing (p. 385-390) II. Theories of Perceptual Knowledge ♦Locke (pp. 75-88) ♦Berkeley (pp. 88-96) ♦McDowell (handout, available on blackboard)
10/16	MIDTERM EXAM	12/11	
		12/20 (1-3 PM)	PAPER
			FINAL EXAM

There will be no classes on: 10/18, 10/25, 11/22

Friday August 31 Last day to add a course

Monday September 10 Last day for undergraduate students to file Pass/Fail application

Friday September 14 Last day to drop a course without a grade

Wednesday September 19 Last day for undergraduate students to apply to take Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS final examinations

Monday October 15 Last day to file for Fall 2012 Graduation

Thursday November 8 Last day for undergraduate students to resolve

Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS and INC grades

Friday November 9 Last day to apply for withdrawal