

SYLLABUS Theory of Knowledge Philosophy 3410 Fall 2010

Dr. Dena Shottenkirk

Text: *Epistemology: The Classic Readings*. David E. Cooper (Blackwell Press)

August 29	Syllabus Review; Plato's <i>Republic</i>
Sept. 5	Aristotle's <i>Posterior Analytics</i>
Sept. 12	Sextus Empiricus' <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i>
Sept. 19	<i>The Book of Chuang Tzu AND The Nyaya-Sutras</i>
Sept. 26	SCHOOL CLOSED
Oct. 3	Nagarjuna's <i>Vigrahavyavartani</i> AND Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
Oct. 10	(conversion day: classes follow a Monday schedule)
Oct. 17	Locke's <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> AND Leibniz's <i>New Essays on the Human Understanding</i>
Oct. 24	Hume's <i>An Enquiry</i> AND Reid's <i>Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Men</i>
Oct. 31	Kant's <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> Re-write Due
Nov. 7	Nietzsche's <i>On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense</i> AND Husserl's <i>The Idea of Phenomenology</i>
Nov. 14	Pierce's <i>Some Consequences of Four Incapacities</i> PAPER #2 DUE
Nov. 21	Russell's <i>Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description</i>
Nov. 28	Schlick's <i>On the Foundation of Knowledge</i>
Dec. 5	Wittgenstein's <i>On Certainty</i>
Dec. 10	Review Rewrite Due

Requirements:

Attendance: More than 3 unexcused absences, and the grade will be dropped one grade point for each absence. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class.

Class participation: Students are expected to participate in class discussions giving comments relevant to the text and readings. Texting on phones or surfing the internet will result in a dropped grade.

Paper #1: Write a 7 page paper (Times New Roman, 11 font, 1" margins top, bottom, sides) that is critical analysis of any reading to date (this section is an **exegesis only**).

Paper #2: Write a 10 page paper (Times New Roman, 11 font, 1" margins top, bottom, sides) that is critical analysis of any reading to date. The first 5 pages or so should be exegesis followed by a page to a page and a half of your *argument* against of for it.

Test: Final, true/false test.

Assessment and Grading:

Paper #1:	due Oct. 10	20%
	Re-write due Nov. 5	
		30%
Paper #2:	due Nov. 14	
	Re-write due Dec. 10	
Final Exam (not graded on curve)		30%
Class participation		10%
Attendance		10%

Goals of Course:

1. Students will increase their basic understanding of the broad discipline of philosophy
2. Students will develop their critical reasoning skills
3. Students will develop their ability to write and verbally communicate their ideas
4. Students will understand the particular discipline of epistemology

Contact:

Email: DSHOTTENKIRK@brooklyn.cuny.edu office hours: Wednesday 4:30-5:30. My

office is 3311 Boylan. I do not check email over the weekend. Please limit emails to essential communication; it is not necessary to email regarding missed classes. It is better to speak in person regarding that.

How to succeed in this class:

- Keep up on readings. Come to class prepared and expect to read the texts at least twice. Outline the main points. Quiz yourself or have a classmate quiz you.
- Participate in Class Discussions. *If you have not understood some of the material, ask in class for a fuller explanation.*
- Study for the test with a study group.
- Re-write the papers. I offer students the chance to re-write their papers and to raise the grade on the basis of the comments I make. (one time offer per paper only!) In helping students do that, I offer to meet with any student individually to discuss the comments I've made on their paper.

Regarding Plagiarism: *Students, please note: I take this very seriously.*

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.

Regarding Religious Holidays:

Please note page 53 in the Bulletin and its reference to the state law regarding non-attendance because of religious beliefs.

Regarding Disability:

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.