

## **Philosophy 122: Theory of Knowledge**

**Fall 2007**

**Instructor:** Professor Roush     [roush@berkeley.edu](mailto:roush@berkeley.edu)

146 Moses

**GSI:** Fabrizio Cariani     [fcariani@berkeley.edu](mailto:fcariani@berkeley.edu)

**Meeting:** Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-2pm., 170 Barrows

**Roush office hours:** Thursday 11:30-12:30, 2:30-3:30, and by appt.

**Cariani office hours:** TBA

**Course website:** on bspace; students registered in this course have access

By any reasonable account, human beings have more knowledge today than ever before due to the progress of science, but there is still philosophical disagreement about what knowledge is, how we should respond to radical skepticism, and how much science itself can tell us about knowledge. In this problem-oriented course we will study contemporary classics of epistemology on the topics of skepticism, justification, foundationalism, epistemic intuitions, tracking, closure, reliabilism, internalism, and externalism, among others. We will take epistemology to be responsible for understanding scientific cases of knowledge, and also consider the implications for epistemology of results in experimental psychology suggesting human beings' lack of awareness of their true reasons for belief.

**Course Requirements:** There will be three 5-page papers. Topics for the papers will be distributed. The readings listed under each date below are expected to be completed by the first class of that week. Surprise quizzes may be given if people seem not to be doing the reading.

- ★ **Attendance in section is required, and will be incorporated into the participation portion of your final grade.**
- ★ **To receive a passing grade in the course you must complete all assignments.**
- ★ **Late work burdens your GSI. It will affect your grade in proportion to its inexcusability.**

**Grading:** Your grade will break down as follows:

Paper 1 – due 9/24	——	25%
Paper 2 – due 10/22	——	30%
Paper 3 – due 12/10	——	35%
Participation	————	10%

Note that this implies there is *no final exam*.

You will turn in your papers to your GSI, Fabrizio, as per his instructions. Your participation grade will be given by Fabrizio, based largely though not only on section participation.

**Texts:** The book *Epistemology: An Anthology*, edited by Sosa and Kim is required, and available in the campus store. Several readings will be posted on our course website at bspace. Other readings are available in online journals through a U.C., Berkeley connection or proxy, and references are given in the syllabus.

**Disabilities:** If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability or if you want me to have emergency medical information, please speak to me after class or during office hours.

**Prerequisite:** The only prerequisite for this course is that you have taken one philosophy course already. (There will be no special penalty if you go outside this guideline, but it will be challenging, so please talk to me first.)

## **Statement on Academic Integrity, Citation, and Plagiarism**

Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your professor.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis. In this course any style of citation is acceptable as long as it is applied consistently throughout a piece of work. All the bibliographic information for the readings is included in the book *Epistemology*, in sticky notes in the files posted on bSpace, and in journal articles you will look up online.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from the professor or GSI beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments, and of thinking for yourself, and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Berkeley. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty – including punishment and a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to graduate school – are simply not worth it. The whole issue is taken more seriously than you may imagine, in all professional areas.

**Assignments - Please bring the readings to class.**

## **I. Skepticism**

8/28, 8/30

Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," bspace  
Stroud, "The Problem of the External World," 6-23, book

9/4, 9/6

Stroud, "The Problem of the External World," 6-23, book  
Moore, "Proof of an External World," 24-26, book

## **II. Foundationalism vs. Coherentism**

9/11, 9/13, 9/18

Chisholm, "The Myth of the Given," 107-119, book  
Davidson, "A Coherence Theory of Truth and Knowledge," 154-163, book

## **Paper 1: due 9/24**

## **III. Analysis of *Knowledge***

9/20, 9/25, 9/27

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?," 58-59, book  
Goldman, "A Causal Theory of Knowing," *Journal of Philosophy* 64 (1967): 357-372. online journal

10/2, 10/4

Nozick, "Knowledge," 79-86, book

10/9, 10/11

Harman, *Thought*, selections, 67-78, book

## **IV. Epistemic Intuitions**

10/16, 10/18

Kornblith, "Investigating Knowledge Itself," bspace  
Carnap, "On Explication," bspace

**Paper 2: due 10/22**

**V. Internalism vs. Externalism**

10/23, 10/25

Goldman, "What is Justified Belief?," 340-352, book

10/30, 11/1

Vogel, "Reliabilism Leveled," *Journal of Philosophy* (2000) **97**: 602-623. online journal

Lehrer, "Externalism and Epistemology Naturalized," 387-399, book

11/6, 11/8, 11/13, 11/15

Goldman, "Internalism Exposed," *Journal of Philosophy* (1999) **46**: 271-293. online journal

Nisbett and Wilson, "Telling More than We Can Know," *Psychological Review* (1977) **84**: 231-259. online journal

Kornblith, "Beyond Foundationalism ...," *Journal of Philosophy* (1980) **77**: 597-612. online journal

**VI. Skepticism, Closure, and Externalism**

11/20, 11/27, 11/29

Nozick, "Skepticism," 86-95, book

Vogel, "Are there Counterexamples to the Closure Principle?" bspace

12/4, 12/6

General Discussion

**Paper 3: due 12/10**

**Papers cover the material since the previous paper.**