

## Philosophy 122

### Theory of Knowledge

Fall 2010

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 the true reasons for their beliefs.

**Class meets:** MWF 2-3, 213 Wheeler

**Prerequisites:** one course in philosophy

**Professor:** S. Roush

233 Moses Hall

[roush@berkeley.edu](mailto:roush@berkeley.edu) (best way to reach me)

[philosophy.berkeley.edu/roush](http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/roush)

**Roush Office Hours:** Monday 12:15-1, Wednesday 3:15-4:30, and by appt.

**Course website:** on [www.bspace.berkeley.edu](http://www.bspace.berkeley.edu) The syllabus and other useful materials are posted there. Students registered in this course have access.

**Course Requirements:** There will be two five-page papers, and a quiz every Monday (and on Wednesday September 8). 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. Unless otherwise announced, the weekly quiz will be on the material to be discussed that week, material that you will have read but that has *not yet been discussed in class*. You will receive study questions each week to guide you through the new reading.

**Graduate Student Instructor:** Lindsay Crawford

**Email for submission of papers (*no hard copies*):** [GSILindsay@gmail.com](mailto:GSILindsay@gmail.com)

**Email for everything else:** [ljcrawfo@berkeley.edu](mailto:ljcrawfo@berkeley.edu)

**Crawford office hours:** Thursday 12-2, 301 Moses Hall

- ★ **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:

Quizzes – weekly (13)	—	25%
Paper 1 – due 10/15	—	30%
Paper 2 – due 12/10	—	35%
Participation	—	10%

Your lowest quiz score (out of 13) will be dropped. Be sure to turn in your papers to Lindsay via the dedicated email, *not* in hard copy: [GSILindsay@gmail.com](mailto:GSILindsay@gmail.com)  
Your participation grade will be given by Lindsay, based largely, though not only, on section participation.

**Texts:** The book *Epistemology: An Anthology*, edited by Sosa, Kim, Fantl, and McGrath, second edition, 2008, is required. Two readings will be posted on our course website in bspace. The remaining readings are available in online journals through a U.C., Berkeley connection or proxy. References are given in the syllabus, to which you should refer regularly to see where we are in the readings.

**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.

## **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. Think of it on analogy with a criminal record.

## **Assignments**

### **I. Skepticism**

8/27, 8/30, 9/1, 9/3

Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," bspace  
Stroud, "The Problem of the External World," 7-25, book

9/8, 9/10

Moore, "Proof of an External World," 26-28, book

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

9/13, 9/15

Chisholm, "The Myth of the Given," 80-93, book

9/17, 9/20

Davidson, "A Coherence Theory of Truth and Knowledge," 124-133, book

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

9/22, 9/24

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?," 192-193, book

9/27, 9/29, 10/1

Goldman, "A Causal Theory of Knowing," *Journal of Philosophy* 64 (1967): 357-372. online journal

10/4, 10/6, 10/8

Nozick, "Knowledge," 255-262, book

10/11, 10/13, 10/15

Harman, *Thought*, selections, 194-206, book (skipping section on statistical inference from 199-201)

***Paper 1 due October 15***

#### **IV. Epistemic Intuitions**

10/18, 10/20, 10/22

Kornblith, "Investigating Knowledge Itself," 647-659, book

Carnap, "On Explication," bspace

#### **V. Internalism vs. Externalism**

10/25, 10/27

Goldman, "What is Justified Belief?," 333-347, book

10/29, 11/1, 11/3, 11/8, 11/10 – no lecture 11/5

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

Conee and Feldman, "Internalism Defended," 407-422, book

11/12, 11/15, 11/17, 11/19

Goldman, "Internalism Exposed," *Journal of Philosophy* (1999) **96**: 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**

11/22, 11/29, 12/1, 12/3

Nozick, "Skepticism," 86-95, book

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

***Paper 2 due December 10***

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