PHILOSOPHY 3340 – EPISTEMOLOGY

Section 001
MWF 1:00-1:50
Hellems 241

Professor Michael Tooley
MWF 12:00-12:50
Hellems 277

Textbooks

The texts that we will be using in this course are as follows:


Two useful sources of (generally) good overview articles for many of the central topics in this course are the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Paul Edwards (eight volumes, plus a 1996 Supplement, edited by Donald M. Borchert; call number: B41 .E5), and the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Edward Craig (ten volumes; call number: B51 .R68). A copy of the former is available in the Reference room of Norlin Library. Copies of the latter are stored offsite.)

Another useful source, though it is still in a somewhat incomplete state, since not all of the articles have yet been written, is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, found online at http://plato.stanford.edu.

Required Work

The required work for the course will consist of the following:

(1) Two essays, of about 1200-1500 words in length. Each essay will count for one-third of your final grade. The due dates for the essays are as follows:

First Essay: Monday, March 15
Second Essay: Friday, April 23

Detailed instructions for the essays, together with a list of possible topics, can be found online at http://spot.colorado.edu/~tooley/EssayTopics3340.html.

(2) A two and one-half hour, closed book, essay-style, final examination. This will also count for one-third of your final grade. The final examination will be on Wednesday, May 5, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., in Hellems 241.

Class Web Site

Course materials can be found online at the following location:
http://spot.colorado.edu/~tooley/Philosophy3340.html

Format of the Course

Classes will take the form of lecture/discussion. My goal will be to explain and to motivate the central concepts and arguments, and to encourage class discussion of those ideas and arguments.
Students should read the relevant articles before each class, in order to be able to participate fully in the class discussions. Such participation will be very helpful in enabling you to master the material.

Topics and Readings

In the case of some of the topics, the readings are divided into "core readings" and "optional readings". The core readings will more than suffice, in the case of every topic, to give you a very good grasp of the basic issues. If, however, you have a good background in philosophy, or if you find the core readings insufficiently challenging, you may well want to go on to do some of the optional readings. The latter are generally, though not always, somewhat more complicated and difficult, and also, in some cases, rather on the long side.

I. Introduction: Epistemology and Philosophy

II. The Problem of Analyzing the Concept of Knowledge

Core Readings

Optional Readings

III. Skepticism

Core Readings
René Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy, Epistemology – Contemporary Readings, pp. 513-23.


**Optional Readings**


**IV. The Justification of Induction**

**Core Readings**


**Optional Readings**


**V. Theories of Justification: Foundationalism, Coherentism, and Foundherentism**


VI. Perceptual Knowledge of the External World

Core Readings


David Hume, "Of the Academic or Skeptical Philosophy," Epistemology – Contemporary Readings, pp. 46-50.


Bertrand Russell, An excerpt from The Problems of Philosophy, Epistemology – Contemporary Readings, pp. 64-73.

J. L. Austin, An excerpt from Sense and Sensibilia, Epistemology – Contemporary Readings, pp. 74-84.

Optional Reading on Perception


VII. Michael Huemer on Direct Realism Versus Indirect Realism


VIII. Knowledge of the Past


IX. A Priori Knowledge

Core Readings


Optional Readings


Statements Concerning Various Matters

The University currently recommends the inclusion in all syllabi of statements dealing with the following matters:

(1) Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed.

(2) Religious Observances Policy Statement

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, students who are absent from a class due to a religious observance should talk to me about the material that I covered in that class. If a religious observance conflicts with the date of the final examination, please inform me of this in writing as early as possible, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

(3) Classroom Behavior Policy Statement

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See polices at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

(4) Statement concerning Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh.

(5) Statement concerning the Boulder Campus Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/
Course Plagiarism Policy

Each student is expected to submit his or her own original work for each exercise, essay, and final exam.

The use of essays and other material downloaded from the Internet is obviously a serious case of plagiarism. But, in general, any substantial use of material from any source must be clearly acknowledged, and any ideas should be expressed in one's own words.

A first violation of this plagiarism policy, the University Honor Code, and/or the Honor Code pledge shown below will result in a grade of zero for the relevant piece of work, and, in accordance with University requirements, will have to be reported. In addition, if that first violation is especially serious – such as the copying of a whole document – the result will be a failing grade for the course as a whole.

A second violation will result in a failing grade for the course as a whole.

Honor Code Pledge

“On my honor, as a University of Colorado at Boulder student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.”