Philosophy 3340: Epistemology
Spring 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am – 12:15 pm, Duane G2B47

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 2 pm, Hellems 197

Weeks 1-3: Skepticism and its Critics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 1.13</td>
<td>Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 1.15</td>
<td>Descartes</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 513-523</td>
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<td>T 1.20</td>
<td>Knowledge as Justified True Belief</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 440-446</td>
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<td>Th 1.22</td>
<td>Nozick on Knowledge</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 475-490</td>
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<td>T 1.27</td>
<td>Moore on Skepticism</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 602-605</td>
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<td>Th 1.29</td>
<td>Putnam on Skepticism</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 524-538</td>
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Weeks 4-6: The A Priori

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 2.03</td>
<td>Plato on the a priori</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 131-141</td>
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<td>Th 2.05</td>
<td>Kant on the a priori</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 142-151</td>
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<td>T 2.10</td>
<td>Russell on the a priori</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 152-165</td>
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<td>Th 2.12</td>
<td>Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 176-193</td>
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<td>T 2.17</td>
<td>Rule-Following</td>
<td>Reading to be posted online</td>
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<td>Th 2.19</td>
<td>More on Rule-Following</td>
<td>Reading to be posted online</td>
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<td>Paper 1 Topic Distributed</td>
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Weeks 7-10: Perception

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 2.24</td>
<td>Locke on Perception</td>
<td>Huemer, pp. 32-36</td>
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Th 2.26  Berkeley on Perception  
  Huemer, pp. 37-45

T 3.03  Russell on Sense-Data  
  Huemer, pp. 64-73

Th 3.05  Austin on Sense-Data  
  Huemer, pp. 74-84

T 3.10  Reid on Perception  
  Huemer, pp. 51-63

Th 3.12  Skepticism and Perception  
  Huemer, pp. 575-589

T 3.17  Vision and Touch  
  Reading to be posted online

Th 3.19  Molyneux’s Problem  
  Reading to be posted online

Paper 1 Due

Weeks 11-14: Epistemic Agency

T 3.31  James, “The Will to Believe”  
  To be posted online

Th 4.02  Epistemic Rationality and Epistemic Agency  
  Owens, Introduction and Chapter 1

T 4.07  Evidentialism  
  Owens, Chapter 2

Th 4.09  Knowledge and Epistemic Agency  
  Owens, Chapter 3

T 4.14  Skepticism and Epistemic Agency  
  Owens, Chapter 4

Th 4.16  The Bayesian Challenge  
  Owens, Appendix to Part 1

T 4.21  Epistemic Freedom  
  Owens, Chapters 5 & 7

Th 4.23  Epistemic Responsibility  
  Owens, Chapter 8

Paper 2 Due

Week 15: Review

T 4.28  Summary

Th 4.30  Review for Final

Final exam:  Date and Time TBA
Readings

The texts for the class are the following:


Other readings (indicated on the syllabus) will be posted online.

We will discuss the reading for a given class during that class; you should read it before that class.

Assignments and grading

You will be required to submit two papers, one due on 3.19 and the other due on 4.23.

There will also be a final exam. This exam will have two parts: the first part will ask you to answer short questions about the readings from throughout the course, and the latter part will ask you to write a short essay on the material covered in weeks 11-14. These parts of the exam will each count for half of your exam grade.

Here is how I will calculate your grade for the course:

    First paper 1/5 of final grade
    Second paper 2/5 of final grade
    Final exam 2/5 of final grade

Sources for University policies on various matters

    Disability Accommodations: www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices
    Religious Observations: www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html
    Classroom Behavior: www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html
    Discrimination and Harassment: www.colorado.edu/odh
    The Honor Code: www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html