

PHL 320: Theory of Knowledge
Spring 2014

Instructor: Matthew Katz
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Office: Anspach 244
Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30,
W 9-10, F 1-2, and by appt.

Course Description: This course is an investigation of contemporary issues in epistemology. Topics discussed will include the analysis of knowledge, the nature of justification, skepticism and possible solutions to it, and naturalized epistemology. Requirements will include regular short writing assignments, one short paper, one longer paper, one mid-term exam and one final exam.

Required Text: Sosa, Kim, Fantl, and McGrath (2008). *Epistemology: An Anthology*, 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Requirements:

Short writing assignments: 10%

First paper: 20%

Mid-term exam: 20%

Second paper: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with CMU's Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at: http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the office of Student Disability Services (Park Library 120, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule:

Weeks 1–3: The Analysis of Knowledge

Gettier (15), Goldman (BB), Lehrer & Paxson (BB),
Nozick (21, pp. 255–262), Zagzebski (17)

Weeks 4–5: Justification, Part I

Chisholm (7), BonJour (10), Klein (14)

Weeks 6–7: Justification, Part II

Feldman & Conee (24), Goldman (26), Plantinga (32)

Weeks 8–9: Skepticism

Stroud (1), Moore (2, 3, 4), Putnam (BB)

Weeks 10–11: Closure

Dretske (19), Stine (20), Nozick (21, pp. 262–272)

Weeks 12–13: Contextualism

DeRose (47), Stanley (50), MacFarlane (53)

Weeks 14–15: Naturalized Epistemology and the A Priori

Quine (39), Kim (40), Casullo (43), Bealer (44), Antony (41)

Tentative Exam/Paper Schedule:

First Paper Due:	February 24 th
Mid-Term Exam:	March 5 th
Second Paper Due:	April 14 th
Final Exam:	May 5 th , 2pm