Philosophy 619: Epistemology

Winter 2017
Instructor: Professor Michael Blome-Tillmann
Office: 940 Leacock
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: michael.blome@mcgill.ca
Course Location and Time: Monday 9:35-11:25, Leacock 927
Tuesday 9:35-11:25, Leacock 520

Prerequisites:
• Phil 210 – Introduction to Deductive Logic
• Phil 419 – Epistemology
• Phil 415 – Philosophy of Language

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In recent years, the semantics of knowledge attributions has become one of the most actively and controversially discussed topics in epistemology and the philosophy of language. This course is located at the heart of this debate: it aims to introduce to the different views defended in the area, to discuss objections to those views, and to compare their relative advantages and disadvantages.

Views discussed include:
• Epistemic contextualism
• Epistemic impurism
• Epistemic relativism
• Strict invariantism

REQUIREMENTS
It is required that students attend the seminar and participate in the discussion. Participants will be required to give up to three seminar presentations of 15 minutes and to prepare a handout of (exactly) one page.

ASSESSMENT
The final mark will be based on one major paper, which might be the reworking of a seminar presentation (about 20 pages, on a topic to be agreed upon individually). In marking the paper, I shall take into consideration the extent to which it reflects active engagement in seminar discussion. I shall not accept a paper that might have been written in a different context altogether.

Late papers will be downgraded at a rate of 5% per day (e.g. from 72% to 67%, 90% to 85%, etc.), including weekend days/holidays. Late submissions will not be accepted 10 days after the deadline and the paper will count as 0%. Requests for extensions will be considered (but not automatically granted) only when requested at least 24 hours before the paper is due and substantiated at the time of request by a doctor’s note documenting illness. Extensions will not be more...
than seven days.

MYCOURSES
The webpage for this course is located at http://www.mcgill.ca/lms/. It will be used to post the syllabus, readings, and periodic announcements. You must check the course webpage regularly. If you have technical problems with MyCourses, contact ICT customer support at:
http://www.mcgill.ca/mycourses/students/help/.

IMPORTANT: papers must be submitted on MyCourses as MS Word documents. Submissions by email or in hard copy will not be considered.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Submissions to this course will be checked for plagiarism by means of Turnitin or equivalent text-matching software.

COPYRIGHT
© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.