

Philosophy 670: Epistemology

Winter 2021

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Course Location and Time: T 10:05 - 12:55, online (see below)

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.

During the course we will discuss the instructor's book manuscript, entitled *The Semantics of Knowledge Attributions*. The structure of the course will closely follow the following Table of Content of the book:

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FORMAT

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has compelled courses to move from the classroom to an online-only format, for the time being. This course will be taught through ‘live’ sessions on Zoom with the instructor. Depending on student demand, the first 25 minutes of each live session will be recorded and will consist of a review of the main points of the material discussed during the week. The remainder of the live sessions will be available for further discussion and will not be recorded. Office hours: I will hold office hours on Mondays from 10:00-12:00 on Zoom.

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 10 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.

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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.