

Philosophy 519: Epistemology

Instructor: Professor Michael Blome-Tillmann

Office: 940 Leacock

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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Course Location and Time: Leacock 927, Wednesday 9:35-11:25.

Prerequisites:

- Phil 210 – Introduction to Deductive Logic
- Phil 419 – Epistemology
- Phil 415 – Philosophy of Language

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar discusses recent topics in epistemology. In particular, we shall address the following topics:

1. Scepticism, Closure, and Transmission
2. The Semantics of 'Knowledge'-Attributions
3. Knowledge and Assertion
4. The Role of Evidence in Courts of Law / The Problem of Naked Statistical Evidence

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 automatically checked for plagiarism by means of Turnitin or equivalent 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 the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.