

**PHIL 3280, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Philosophy, Fall 2014**  
**T/TH 2:30 – 3:50, Macdonald Institute (MINS) 103**

**Instructor:** Karyn Freedman

**Email:** karynf@uoguelph.ca

**Office:** 354 MacKinnon

**Phone:** 519-824-4120 x.53232

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 4 – 5:30 & Thursday 10:30 – 11, or by appointment

**\*\*Final Exam:** Monday December 8, 2:30 – 4:30

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will be structured around Miranda Fricker's important new book *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing* (2007). In her book Fricker argues for a distinctively epistemic type of injustice, in which someone is wronged specifically in their capacity as a knower. We will spend the first part of the course brushing up on familiar themes in contemporary epistemology, with a special focus on testimony as a source of knowledge. Then we will read Fricker's book and explore its significance in the context of other recent work in the ethics of belief and virtue epistemology.

**TEXT**

Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*: Oxford University Press, 2007.

The other readings will be available to you online through the library's ARES Course Reserve.

**COURSE FORMAT**

We will meet twice a week during the fall term in the Macdonald Institute (MINS) 103. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussion. In order to be able to contribute to classroom discussion it is imperative that you do the day's reading prior to coming to class.

**E-MAIL COMMUNICATION**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

**DROP DATE**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08\\_drop.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08_drop.shtml))

**COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **WHEN YOU CAN'T MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT\***

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

\* See below for specific details on late assignments and missed tests

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is [detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

### **RECORDING OF MATERIALS**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate, or guest lecturer.

### **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (soon to be re-named Student Accessibility Services) as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or refer to the [CSD website](#).

## RESOURCES

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

## EVALUATION

1. **Critical summaries (5 x 2% each = 10%).** Five times during the term (the dates are indicated on the course syllabus) students are to come to class with a 1-page typewritten critical summary of that day's readings (the reading is indicated in **bold**). There are 6 opportunities to hand in a critical summary, so you can miss one and still receive full marks. A critical summary requires a precise formulation of some claim or argument from the readings, and a presentation of an objection to this point. These classes will include some student-led discussion on the issues debated in the critical summaries, and students will be encouraged to participate in the discussion period. This assignment will NOT be graded. You will receive the 2% so long as it is clear that you have done the reading and given thought to the argument in question.
  - This mark is akin to a participation mark: you will receive 2% if you hand in a critical summary *in class*, and as such there will be no opportunity to make up this mark – *if you miss class, you lose the marks*.
  - I will not be returning the summaries; I will keep them and review them with students on a one-on-one basis, during my office hours. It will be especially important for you to come see me to review your critical summaries prior to handing in your essay.
2. **Midterm (30%).** This will likely consist of a number of long answer questions.
  - *Students unable to write the mid-term for medical reasons must submit a medical certificate.* Students who miss the test for medical or religious reasons will be given an opportunity to do a rewrite.
3. **One 5-page essay (25%).** I will hand out essay topics three weeks before the essay is due. If you would like to pick your own topic, you can do so on the condition that I approve the topic beforehand.
  - Late essays will be penalized 2% per day unless accompanied by a medical certificate.
  - **Note:** The philosophy department does not accept late essays at the front office, and I do not accept emailed essays.
4. **Final exam (35%).** This will likely consist of a number of long answer questions.
  - Students who are unable to write the final exam due to medical or religious reasons must follow the guidelines set out in Undergraduate Calendar.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
September 4	Class Mechanics; Introduction	No readings
September 9	Logic primer; Hume; Reid	David Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Section 10 “On Miracles”; Thomas Reid, <i>Inquiry Into the Human Mind</i> , Chapter 6, section 24
September 11	Testimony/Hume’s dilemma	C.A.J. Coady, “Testimony and Observation”
September 16	Testimony/evidence *Critical summary #1	<b>Richard Moran, “Getting Told and Being Believed”</b>
September 18	Testimony/credulism	John Hardwig, “The Role of Trust in Knowledge”
September 23	Testimony/egoism *Critical summary #2	<b>Tyler Burge, “Content Preservation”</b>
September 25	Testimony/egoism	Richard Foley, “Egoism in Epistemology”
September 30	Testimony/reductivism (inferentialism) *Critical summary #3	<b>Jonathan E. Adler, “Testimony, Trust, Knowing”</b>
October 2	Testimony/reductivism (inferentialism)	Elizabeth Fricker, “Trusting others in the sciences: a priori or empirical warrant”
October 7	Testimony: contextualism *Critical summary #4	<b>Tim Kenyon, “The Informational Richness of Testimonial Contexts”</b>
October 9	Fricker	Introduction
October 14	- Study Day – no classes	
October 16	<b>Midterm</b>	
October 21	Fricker *Essay topics	Chapter 1
October 23	Fricker	Chapter 2
October 28	Fricker	Chapter 3
October 30	Fricker	Chapter 4
November 4	Fricker	Chapters 5 & 6
November 6	Fricker	Chapter 7

November 11	Ethics of belief <b>*Essays due</b>	Richard Feldman, "The Ethics of Belief"
November 13	Virtue Epistemology	Jason Baehr, "Evidentialism, Vice, and Virtue"
November 18	Virtue Epistemology <b>*Critical summary #5</b>	James Montmarquet, "Epistemic Virtue"
November 20	Virtue epistemology	John Heil, "Doxastic Voluntarism"
November 25	Virtue epistemology <b>*Critical summary #6</b>	James Montmarquet, "Virtue and Voluntarism"
November 27	Final Exam Review	