

S. Goldberg

Department of Philosophy

Course Meetings: M/W 2-3:20 p.m.

Course Zoom URL:

<https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/95387180057?pwd=TlNUNmhqK0tXMIl3Sk9aeXo3U2Ivdz09>

Office Hours: M/W 8:30-9:20 or by appointment

Office Hours Zoom URL:

<https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/96421168576?pwd=VEw4V0ZlL0xhZ013Q3BKTjJ4cjdwZ09>

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PHI 318

Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Epistemic Injustice

Winter 2021

OVERVIEW

In this course we will be exploring recent work on the topic of epistemic injustice. Students will be expected (i) to comprehend the various philosophers' arguments on these topics, (ii) to develop their own views on the topics, and (iii) to present their own views, as well as the views of the philosophers we read, in clear, succinct, and forcefully argued thesis papers.

TEXTS

Our readings will be from two books as well as from articles (provided in PDF form on the course Canvas page). The books are these:

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

Medina, José, The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduates are expected to write two thesis papers, each no longer than seven pages (or 2100 words). About a week before a paper is due I will hand out a list of paper topics. You are free to devise your own topics if you prefer, but if you do I strongly encourage you to talk with me about the topic before you begin writing.

Graduate students are expected to write one term paper, of no more than twenty pages.

Both undergraduates and graduate students, your final grade will be computed as follows: 20% of the final grade will be your class participation grade, and the other 80% of your final grade will be determined by your paper(s). (For undergraduates, each paper will be worth 40% of your final grade).

Lateness policy: unexcused lateness in submitting a paper will result in the paper being graded down by a half-grade for every 24 hours late. (This includes weekend days.). If you anticipate having a legitimate excuse, please talk with me ahead of time.

ZOOM MEETINGS:

Owing to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, all office hours as well as all of our class meetings will be on Zoom. Please note that this class or portions of this class will be recorded for educational purpose and will be available to the class during the quarter on our course Canvas site. Portions of the course that contain images, questions or commentary/discussion by students will be edited out of any recordings that are saved beyond the current term.

Regarding these recordings, we are also governed by the following statement from the Office of the Provost:

“Unauthorized student recording of classroom or other academic activities (including advising sessions or office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy and state law. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact AccessibleNU. Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the University’s Copyright Policy, faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.”

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan 11	Introduction (no reading)
Jan 13	Fricker, Introduction and Chapter 1
Jan 18	MLK Day [no class]
Jan 20	Fricker, Chapter 2-3
Jan 25	Fricker, Chapter 4-5
Jan 27	Fricker, Chapter 6
Feb 1	McGlynn, “Epistemic Objectification as the Primary Harm of Testimonial Injustice”;
Feb 3	Fricker, Chapter 7
Feb 8	Maitra, “New Words for Old Wrongs” Guest visit by Miranda Fricker
Feb 10	Medina, Chapter 1; <i>First paper topics handed out</i>
Feb 15	Medina, Chapter 2
Feb 17	Medina, Chapter 3
	First paper due on Friday Feb 19, 5 pm [Undergraduates only]
Feb 22	Medina, Chapter 4, pp. 119-135
Feb 24	Medina, Chapter 4, pp. 135-161

Mar 1 Medina, Chapter 4, pp. 161-185;
Guest visit by José Medina
Mar 3 Dotson, “Conceptualizing Epistemic Oppression”
Mar 8 Berenstain, “Epistemic Exploitation”
Mar 10 Pohlhaus, Jr., “Epistemic Agency Under Oppression”;
Second paper topics handed out

The second paper is due Tuesday, March 16, 5 pm (submitted through Canvas). There is no final exam; your final paper is your last course requirement.