# PHIL-210: Knowledge and Certainty

December 21, 2016

Instructor Carlotta Pavese, PhD
Teaching Assistant Hannah Bondurant
Main Lecture Time T/Th 1:25-2:40
Main Lecture Location East Campus, in Friedl room 107
Professor's Email carlotta.pavese@duke.edu
TA's Email hannah.bondurant@duke.edu
Office West Duke Building, Philosophy department, room 2011.
Office Hours Tuesdays 3-4 (After class)/Thursdays 12-1 (before class starts at 1:25).

Website There will be a Sakai site for the course.

**Course Description** This course will be a survey of central issues in contemporary epistemology. The first part of the course will be devoted to considering skeptical arguments to the effect that we can't really know whether the world is the way it appears to us: What is it like to be in the Matrix? What would it be so bad about it, if anything? Then we will consider other forms of skepticisms, such as *skepticism about induction*: how can we be justified in believing that tomorrow the sun will rise, on the basis of our past experiences? We will look at different strategies to respond to such skeptical arguments. This endeavor will bring us to explore questions concerning the nature of knowledge and the relation between knowledge and other epistemologically significant concepts, such as certainty, justification and evidence: What is knowledge? What more is there to knowledge than justified true belief? Does knowledge require certainty? What does being justified in believing that something is the case requires of the believer? Can perception give us immediate justification? The last part of the course will be devoted to introducing some issues in social epistemology, such as, for example, what makes us responsible, as a community, for the beliefs that we have? Is ignorance culpable? If so, why so? Can epistemic peers reasonably disagree? In other words, can two individuals with the exact same evidence concerning a certain subject matter reasonably disagree about it? How can someone who is not knowledgeable about a certain domain reliably identify experts in that domain? How can one reliably determine when one needs to consult experts? What is feminist epistemology?

#### **Textbook and Readings**

Mandatory: Feldman, Richard. *Epistemology*. Pearson College Division, 2003. Rosenberg, Jay. *Three Conversations about knowing*, Hackett Publishing 2000.

**Other Readings**: Some of the readings aren't in the mandatory textbook. All such readings will be available electronically on Sakai. You should print these out and bring them to class.

Advice on Reading: It is more important to reach a basic grasp of the overall point of a reading than to understand any particular detail. Accordingly, I advise you to do each of the readings once quickly in a single sitting and then return to the details you missed. If, on a second reading, you can't sort out some specific detail, write down what you don't understand and bring it to class for discussion. Do your best to raise your question at a point in the class where that detail is relevant to what's being discussed. It is much more likely that you will get a satisfying answer if you ask your question at the appropriate time. In all the readings, it will be helpful to ask yourself 'what is the problem or issue at stake here?' and then 'what solutions or positions is the author arguing for here?'.

#### Grading:

Exams 50% 2 Exams (Exam 1: 20%, Exam 2: 30%). See the schedule for the exam days.

The 2 exams will require you to answer 3 short-answer essay questions. Each exam will present you with 3 pairs of questions and you will have to select one from each pair to answer; all the answers will have to be completed in-class. Prior to each exam I will post 12 study-questions. The 6 exam questions will be among these study questions. The exams will be non-cumulative, but there is a good deal of interdependence in the course material, so it may be necessary to revisit old notes and texts in studying for an exam.

- **Essays** 40% 2 essays (Essay 1: 15%, Essay 2: 25%). See the schedule for when the essays are due.
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours and quizzes 10%. There are seven quizzes spread out during the semester. Please, look at the schedule to see when they are scheduled. At the beginning of October starting the 6th, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor and the TA during their office hours (Tuesday 3-4 and Thursday 12-1).

**Policy on Absences**: Students are expected to attend all classes. Please note: My policy for missed classes and missed exams is the following. If you miss an exam and want to make it up, you will need an official excuse of your absence. In all but the most extreme

cases, you will be required to make up the missed exam within 10 days. You've got up to *two* excused absences during the semester.

#### (Provisional) Schedule

The following schedule is only provisional and most likely subject to changes as we go on.

**1st week Tuesday** *When*: 26th August. *Readings*: None. *Topic*: Introduction to Epistemology. Belief, Truth and Knowledge.

Thursday *When*: 28th August.

*Readings*: Rosenberg's First Conversation. *Topic*: Knowledge and objectivity

# 2nd week Tuesday When: 2nd September. First Quiz

*Readings*: "What is so bad about living in the Matrix?" by Jim Pryor http://www.jimpryor.net/research/papers/matrix/plain.html *Topic*: The Matrix

#### Thursday When: 4th September.

- Descartes, First Meditation, Meditations on First Philosophy, made available.
- Feldman pp. 108-119.

*Topic*: The Dreaming Argument.

#### 3rd week Tuesday When: 9th September.

Readings: Readings:

• Rosenberg, Second Conversation, pp. 18-22.

Topic: Knowledge and Certainty

# Thursday When: 11th September. Readings: Readings:

• Selections of Hawthorne[? ] made available.

Topic: Lottery Paradox, Closure, Multiple-premises Closure.

# 4th week Tuesday When: 16th September. Second Quiz

Readings:

• §1 & §2 "The problem of induction", Stanford Encyclopedia Entry at: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/induction-problem/

Topic: Skepticism about induction

# Thursday When: 18th September.

Readings:

- Keith DeRose, "Contextualism: an explanation and defense" in John Greco and Ernest Sosa, eds., The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology. (Blackwell, Malden, Mass., 1999), pp. 187-205.
- Feldman, pp. 152-155
- Selection from Ernest Sosa, "Skepticism and contextualism" Philosophical Issues 10 (2000), pp. 1-10.

Topic: Relevant Theories and Contextualist solutions to skepticism.

# 5th week Tuesday When: 23rd September.

Readings:

- Keith DeRose, "Contextualism: an explanation and defense" in John Greco and Ernest Sosa, eds., The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology. (Blackwell, Malden, Mass., 1999), pp. 187-205.
- Feldman, pp. 152-155
- Selection from Ernest Sosa, "Skepticism and contextualism" Philosophical Issues 10 (2000), pp. 1-10.

*Topic*: Relevant Theories and Contextualist solutions to skepticism, continued.

# Thursday When: 25th September. Third Quiz.

Readings: No reading.

Topic: Review for Midterm.

Tuesday When: 30th September. Readings:

- Feldman chapter 1 and 2.
- Rosenberg, Second Conversation pp. 22-36.
- Edmund Gettier, "Is justified true belief knowledge?,"Analysis 23 (1963), pp. 121-23. Reprinted in Paul K. Moser, ed., Empirical Knowledge: readings in contemporary epistemology (Rowman Littlefield, Totowa, NJ, 1986), pp. 231-33.

Thursday When: 2nd October.

Topic: First Exam.

**Tuesday** *When*: 7th October *Topic*: What is knowledge? Traditional analyses of knowledge and Gettier's challenge.

Readings:

- Feldman chapter 1 and 2.
- Rosenberg, Second Conversation pp. 22-36.
- Edmund Gettier, "Is justified true belief knowledge?,"Analysis 23 (1963), pp. 121-23. Reprinted in Paul K. Moser, ed., Empirical Knowledge: readings in contemporary epistemology (Rowman Littlefield, Totowa, NJ, 1986), pp. 231-33.

Thursday When: 9th October. Fourth Quiz.

Topic: Goldman's response to Gettier. Reliabilism.

*Readings*: Alvin Goldman, "Discrimination and perceptual knowledge," Journal of Philosophy 73 (1976), pp. 771-791. Rosenberg, Third Conversation, especially up to p. 43.

Tuesday When: 14th October

no class, fall break.

Thursday When: 16th October First essay (3-4 pages) due.

Topic: Goldman's response to Gettier. Reliabilism. Part II

*Readings*: Rosenberg, Third Conversation, especially up to p. 43. Goldman's "What is justified belief?"

Tuesday When: 21st October

Readings: Bonjour's "Externalist theories of empirical knowledge."

Topic: Problems for Reliabilism.

# Thursday When: 23rd October

Readings: http://www.iep.utm.edu/kk-princ/

Topic: The KK principle and its problems.

# Tuesday When: 28th October

*Readings*: Stanford encyclopedia entry on Analysis of knowledge, section 5 (Sensitivity, Safety and relevant alternatives): <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/</a>

Topic: Modal conditions on knowledge, Sensitivity and safety.

#### Thursday When: 30th October

*Readings*:Stanford encyclopedia entry on Analysis of knowledge, section 5 (Sensitivity, Safety and relevant alternatives): <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/</a>

Topic: Modal conditions on knowledge, Sensitivity and safety. (Continued)

#### Tuesday When: 4th November. Fifth Quiz.

Readings: Readings: "Bayesian Epistemology" Hayek & Hartmann.

Topic: Other approaches to epistemology: Introduction to Bayesian epistemology.

Thursday When: 6th November.

Readings: Readings: "Bayesian Epistemology" Hayek & Hartmann.

*Topic*: Other approaches to epistemology: Introduction to Bayesian epistemology (Continued).

**Tuesday** *When*: 11th November **Sixth Quiz**. *Readings*: Gendler Tamara "On the Epistemic costs of Implicit Bias" (made available). Recommended also: Jennifer Saul "Skepticism and Implicit bias" (made available).

*Topic*: Implicit biases and their epistemic costs.

Thursday When: 13th November

*Readings*: Allan Buchanan "Political Liberalism and Social epistemology". (Made available).

Topics: Political epistemology.

13th week Tuesday When: 18th November

*Readings* Goldman "Experts: which one should one trust?" (made available) *Topic*: Introduction to Social Epistemology. The expert-novice problem. The threshold problem.

Thursday When: 20th November Wednesday.

*Readings*: David Christensen "Disagreement as Evidence. The epistemology of controversy".

Topic: Peer disagreement.

14th week Tuesday When: 25th November, no class, thanksgiving recess

Thursday When: 27th November, no class, thankgivings recess

# 15th week Tuesday When: 2nd December Seventh Quiz

*Readings*: Heather Battaly "Virtue epistemology", (made available). *Topic*: Guest Lecture by Hannah Bondurant: Virtue Epistemology.

Thursday When: 4th December Readings: None. Topic: Review. Second Essay (5-7 pages) Due.

# PHIL 551S: Knowledge and Action

January 4, 2015

Instructor Carlotta Pavese, PhD Main Lecture Time Th 4:40PM - 7:10PM . Main Lecture Location West Duke 204 (20) Professor's Email carlotta.pavese@duke.edu. Office West Duke Building, Philosophy department, room 201I. Office Hours Thursdays 2-4. Website There will be a Sakai site for the course.

**Course Description** This course will be an advanced course in knowledge-first epistemology. According to knowledge-first epistemology, the concept of knowledge plays a foundational explanatory role with respect to a variety of other philosophically interesting concepts. Traditionally, knowledge-first epistemologists insist on the conceptual priority of knowledge with respect to other epistemological concepts, such as justification and evidence. In this course, we will mostly focus instead on the explanatory role played by knowledge with respect to practical concepts, such as the concepts of intentional action, sound performance and intelligent action. Here are a few topics we will touch on: We will start reading part of the bible for knowledge-first epistemology—Timothy Williamson's Knowledge and its limits. We will look at the literature on whether knowledge is the norm of assertion and action. We will look at the compatibility of the knowledge-first approach to epistemology with a Bayesian approach to decision theory. Finally, we will address the question whether practical knowledge is a kind of propositional knowledge and how an answer to this question bears on the issue concerning the priority of knowledge in the practical domain.

#### **Required book**

Mandatory:

Timothy Williamson, Knowledge and its limits, Oxford University Press 2002.

**Other Readings**: All other readings will be available electronically on Sakai. You should print these out and bring them to class.

Advice on Reading: It is more important to reach a basic grasp of the overall point of a reading than to understand any particular detail. Accordingly, I advise you to do each of the readings once quickly in a single sitting and then return to the details you missed. If, on a second reading, you can't sort out some specific detail, write down what you don't understand and bring it to class for discussion. Do your best to raise your question at a point in the class where that detail is relevant to what's being discussed. It is much more likely that you will get a satisfying answer if you ask your question at the appropriate time. In all the readings, it will be helpful to ask yourself 'what is the problem or issue at stake here?' and then 'what solutions or positions is the author arguing for here?'.

# Grading for Undergraduates:

- **Essays** 2 shortish essays (Essay 1 (5-7 pages) 30%), Essay 2 (10-12 pages) 40%). Students will be provided with essay topics two weeks in advance of when the essays are due. For deadlines, see the schedule.
- **1 Student Presentation** 20%. Every student is required to do a presentation on one of the readings during the semester. If student is presenting on day n, they need to send me an outline of their presentation by day n-2.
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours 10%. At the end of February, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours (Thursday 2-4).

# Grading for Graduate Students:

- **Essay** Final essay (70%). Outline of the essay is due on April 1st. On the 16th of April, each graduate student will have to give a presentation of their project for the final essay. The final essay (15-20 pages) is then due on May 1st. No incompletes.
- **1 Student Readings Presentation** 10%. Every student is required to do a presentation on one of the readings during the semester. If student is presenting on day *n*, they need to send me an outline of their presentation by day *n*-2.
- **1 Student Final Essay Presentation** 10%. The last day of classes (April 16th), graduate students have to present their final projects to the whole class.
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours 10%. At the end of February, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours (Thursday 2-4).

Policy on Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes.

#### (Provisional) Schedule

The following schedule is only provisional and most likely subject to changes as we go on.

1st week Thursday When: January 8th 2015.

*Readings*: Williamson KAL (Preface and Introduction). *Topic*: Introduction to Knowledge First Epistemology. 2nd week Thursday When: January 15th 2015 (cancelled class, in Mexico).

3rd week Thursday When: January 22nd 2015.

Readings:

1. KAL chapter I and II.

2. Jennifer Nagel: "Knowledge as a mental state". (Presenter?).

Topic: Is knowledge a mental state?

**4th week Thursday** *When*: January 29th 2015. *Readings*: KAL (chapter III (Presenter?) and IX). *Topic*: Is knowledge prime?

5th week Thursday When: 5th February 2015

Readings:

- 1. KAL (chapter XI).
- 2. DeRose "Assertion, Knowledge and Context". (Presenter?)
- 3. Ishani Maitra "Assertion, Norms and Games". (Presenter?)
- 4. (Recommended: Jessica Brown "Knowledge and Assertion".)
- 5. (Recommended: Jessica Brown "The Knowledge Norm of Assertion").

Topic: Knowledge and assertion.

6th week Thursday When: 12th February 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Hawthorne and Stanley "Knowledge and action".
- 2. Ishani Maitra "Assertion, Knowledge and Action" (With Weatherson); (Presenter?).
- 3. Jessica Brown "Knowledge and Practical Reason". (Presenter?).

*Topic*: Knowledge and action.

7th week Thursday When: 19th February 2015.

*Readings*: KAL Chapter X, other readings TBD. *Topic*: Introduction to Bayesianism (me lecturing).

**8th week Thursday** *When*: 26 February 2015. (First short essay for undergraduates due). *Readings*:

1. Weisberg "Knowledge in action" (Presenter?).

2. Weatherson "The Bayesian and the dogmatist." (Presenter?)

3. Sara Moss's "Epistemology formalized".

Topic: The place for knowledge within Bayesianism.

9th week Tuesday When: 5th March 2015.

1. Weatherson's "Games and reason-knowledge principle". (Presenter?)

2. Weatherson's "Knowledge, bets and interests." (Presenter?)

*Topic*: Weatherson on Knowledge: Knowledge, decision theory and game theory.

10th week Thursday When: 12th March 2015 (no class, spring recess).

# 11th week Tuesday When: 19th March 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Gibbons "Knowledge in Action".
- 2. Mele and Moser "Intentional action" (Presenter?).
- 3. Mele and Sverdlik "Intention, Intentional Action and Moral Responsibility" (Presenter?)

*Topic*: Knowledge, skills and intentional action.

# 12th week Thursday When: 26th March 2015.

*Topic*: Introduction to know how.

Readings:

1. Ryle "The Concept of Mind" (selections).

2. Williamson and Stanley's "Knowing how".

# 13th week Thursday When: 2nd April 215.

*Topic*: Knowledge, know how and intentional action. *Readings*:

- 1. Setiya "Know how" (Presenter?);
- 2. Pavese "Knowing a rule";
- 3. Pavese "Know how, abilities and intentionality"

# 14th week Thursday When: 9th April 2015.

*Topic*: Know how, safe performances and skills. *Readings*:

1. Sosa A virtue epistemology, sections.

2. Sosa "How Competence matters in Epistemology".

3. Pavese "Safe beliefs and safe performances".

**15 week Thursday** *When*: 16th April 2015. (**Second essay for undergraduates due**). *Topic*: Presentations by Graduate Students on their essays. *Readings*: No readings.

# References

# PHIL-210: Knowledge and Certainty

December 21, 2016

Instructor Carlotta Pavese, PhD Main Lecture Time W/F 10.05-11:20am Main Lecture Location West Duke Building 202, East Campus. Professor's Email carlotta.pavese@duke.edu Office West Duke Building, Philosophy department, room 2011. Office Hours Wednesdays 4-6- Fridays 11.30-1 (after class). Website There will be a Sakai site for the course.

**Course Description** This course will be a survey of central issues in contemporary epistemology. The first part of the course will be devoted to considering skeptical arguments to the effect that we can't really know whether the world is the way it appears to us: What is it like to be in the Matrix? What would it be so bad about it, if anything? Then we will consider other forms of skepticisms, such as *skepticism about induction*: how can we be justified in believing that tomorrow the sun will rise, on the basis of our past experiences? We will look at different strategies to respond to such skeptical arguments. This endeavor will bring us to explore questions concerning the nature of knowledge and the relation between knowledge and other epistemologically significant concepts, such as certainty, justification and evidence: What is knowledge? What more is there to knowledge than justified true belief? Does knowledge require certainty? What does being justified in believing that something is the case requires of the believer? Can perception give us immediate justification? The last part of the course will be devoted to introducing some recent topics in contemporary epistemology, such as, for example: Can epistemic peers reasonably disagree? In other words, can two individuals with the exact same evidence concerning a certain subject matter reasonably disagree about it? Can religious beliefs be epistemically justified? Can it be rational to believe something that one believes to be unsupported by evidence? In other words, can an epistemically akratic subject be rational?

## **Textbook and Readings**

*Mandatory*: Feldman, Richard. *Epistemology*. Pearson College Division, 2003. Rosenberg, Jay. *Three Conversations about knowing*, Hackett Publishing 2000.

#### *Optional*:

Sosa, Ernest, Judgment and Agency, Oxford University Press 2015.

**Other Readings**: Some of the readings aren't in the mandatory textbook. All such readings will be available electronically on Sakai. You should print these out and bring them to class.

Advice on Reading: It is more important to reach a basic grasp of the overall point of a reading than to understand any particular detail. Accordingly, I advise you to do each of the readings once quickly in a single sitting and then return to the details you missed. If, on a second reading, you can't sort out some specific detail, write down what you don't understand and bring it to class for discussion. Do your best to raise your question at a point in the class where that detail is relevant to what's being discussed. It is much more likely that you will get a satisfying answer if you ask your question at the appropriate time. In all the readings, it will be helpful to ask yourself 'what is the problem or issue at stake here?' and then 'what solutions or positions is the author arguing for here?'.

#### Grading:

Exams 50% 2 Exams (Exam 1: 20%, Exam 2: 30%). See the schedule for the exam days.

The 2 exams will require you to answer 3 short-answer essay questions. Each exam will present you with 3 pairs of questions and you will have to select one from each pair to answer; all the answers will have to be completed in-class. Prior to each exam I will post 12 study-questions. The 6 exam questions will be among these study questions. The exams will be non-cumulative, but there is a good deal of interdependence in the course material, so it may be necessary to revisit old notes and texts in studying for an exam.

- **Essays** 40% 2 essays (Essay 1: 15%, Essay 2: 25%). The second exam is going to be a take-home, and should be electronically submitted on December 10th, by 5pm.
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours and quizzes 10%. There are seven quizzes spread out during the semester. Please, look at the schedule to see when they are scheduled. At the beginning of October starting the 6th, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours.

**Academic Integrity** Students that are found faulty of plagiarism in any single one of the above assignments will be given an F in the class (and consequently will fail the class).

**Policy on Absences**: Students are expected to attend all classes. Please note: My policy for missed classes and missed exams is the following. If you miss an exam and want to make it up, you will need an official excuse of your absence. In all but the most extreme

cases, you will be required to make up the missed exam within 10 days. You've got up to *two* excused absences during the semester.

The religious holidays page on the T-Reqs website communicates to students the policy and procedures to be followed if they will miss class due to **observation of a religious holiday**: http://trinity.duke.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/religious-holidays. The procedure includes the submission of a Religious Observance Notification Form to their instructor. Students who miss class to observe a specified religious holiday are expected to make prior arrangements with their instructor to make up any work missed.

# (Provisional) Schedule

The following schedule is only provisional and most likely subject to changes as we go on.

1st week Wednesday When: 26th August.

*Readings*: None. *Topic*: Introduction to Epistemology.

Friday When: 28th August. *Readings*: Rosenberg's First Conversation. *Topic*: Belief, Truth and Knowledge.

2nd week Wednesday *When*: 2nd September. First Quiz *Readings*: Rosenberg's First Conversation. *Topic*: Knowledge and Objectivity.

Friday When: 4th September.

Readings: "What is so bad about living in the Matrix?" by Jim Pryor http: //www.jimpryor.net/research/papers/matrix/plain.html Topic: The Matrix

3rd week Wednesday When: 9th September.

Readings:

- Descartes, First Meditation, Meditations on First Philosophy, made available.
- Feldman pp. 108-119.

Topic: Dream Skepticism.

Friday When: 11th September.

Readings:

- Rosenberg, Second Conversation, pp. 18-22.
- Unger, A Defense of Skepticism, made available.

Topic: Knowledge and Certainty.

**4th week Wednesday** *When*: 16th September. **Second Quiz** *Readings*: • Selections of Hawthorne's "Knowledge and lotteries" made available.

Topic: Lottery Paradox, Closure, Multiple-premises Closure.

Friday When: 18th September.

Readings:

- Keith DeRose, "Contextualism: an explanation and defense" in John Greco and Ernest Sosa, eds., The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology. (Blackwell, Malden, Mass., 1999), pp. 187-205.
- Feldman, pp. 152-155.
- Selection from Ernest Sosa, "Skepticism and contextualism" Philosophical Issues 10 (2000), pp. 1-10.

*Topic*: Relevant Theories and Contextualist solutions to skepticism.

5th week Wednesday When: 23rd September.

Readings:

- Feldman chapter 1 and 2.
- Rosenberg, Second Conversation pp. 22-36.
- Edmund Gettier, "Is justified true belief knowledge?, "Analysis 23 (1963), pp. 121-23. Reprinted in Paul K. Moser, ed., Empirical Knowledge: readings in contemporary epistemology (Rowman Littlefield, Totowa, NJ, 1986), pp. 231-33.

Topic: Gettier and Knowledge.

# Friday When: 25th September. Third Quiz

Readings:

*Readings*: Alvin Goldman, "Discrimination and perceptual knowledge," Journal of Philosophy 73 (1976), pp. 771-791. Rosenberg, Third Conversation, especially up to p. 43. *Topic*: Goldman's response to Gettier. Reliabilism.

# 6th week Wednesday When: 30th September.

Readings: No new reading.

Topic: Review for Midterm.

# Friday When: 2nd October.

Readings: No new reading.

Topic: First Exam.

# 7th week Wednesday When: 7th October

Readings:

*Readings*: Rosenberg, Third Conversation, especially up to p. 43. Goldman's "What is justified belief?" *Topic*: Goldman's response to Gettier. Reliabilism. Part II Friday When: 9th October.

*Readings*: Bonjour's "Externalist theories of empirical knowledge." *Topic*: Problems for Reliabilism.

8th week Wednesday When: 14th October. Fourth Quiz.

*Readings*: Stanford encyclopedia entry on Analysis of knowledge, section 5 (Sensitivity, Safety and relevant alternatives): <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/</a>

Topic: Modal conditions on knowledge, Sensitivity and safety. Part I

#### Friday When: 16th October First essay (3-4 pages) due.

*Readings*: Stanford encyclopedia entry on Analysis of knowledge, section 5 (Sensitivity, Safety and relevant alternatives): <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/knowledge-analysis/</a>

Topic: Modal conditions on knowledge, Sensitivity and safety. Part II

9th week Wednesday When: 21st October

*Readings*: Readings: "Bayesian Epistemology" Hayek & Hartmann.

*Topic*: Other approaches to epistemology: Introduction to Bayesian epistemology. Part I

Friday When: 23rd October

*Readings*: Readings: "Bayesian Epistemology" Hayek & Hartmann. *Topic*: Other approaches to epistemology: Introduction to Bayesian epistemology. Part II

# 10th week Wednesday When: 28th October

*Readings*: David Christensen "Disagreement as Evidence. The epistemology of controversy".

*Topic*: Social epistemology and the problem of peer disagreement.

Friday When: 30th October. Class Cancelled.

#### Wednesday When: 4th November. Fifth Quiz.

Readings: Battaly's "Virtue Epistemology".

*Topic*: Virtue epistemology. Part I.

Friday *When*: 6th November. *Readings*: Turri's "Knowledge as Achievement, more or less".

*Topic*: Virtue epistemology. Part II Guest Lecture by Bryce Gessell.

## Wednesday When: 11th November

*Readings*: Kelp "In defense of Virtue Epistemology". *Topic*: Virtue epistemology. Part III. **Friday** *When*: 13th November *Readings*: Daniel Greco "The iteration principles in epistemology, I and II".

Topic: KK and its problems.

Wednesday When: 18th November Sixth Quiz. Readings: Sophie Horowitz "Epistemic Akrasia" Topic: The problem of Epistemic Akrasia.

Friday When: 20th November

emphReadings: Trent Dougherty and Chris Tweedt, "Religious Epistemology". *Topic*: Religious Epistemology.

Wednesday When: 25th November, no class, thanksgiving recess

Friday When: 27th November, no class, thankgivings recess

# Wednesday When: 2nd December Seventh Quiz

*Readings*: Gendler "On the Epistemic Cost of Implicit Biases" *Topic*: The Epistemology of Implicit Biases.

Friday When: 4th December Readings: No class Second Essay (4-5 pages) Due.

Monday *When*: 7th December (from 10.05 to 11.20). *Readings*: Review.

# PHIL 701: Special Fields in Philosophy: Conditionals, Conditional Thought and Factual Talk

December 21, 2016

Instructor Carlotta Pavese, PhD

Main Lecture Time Wednesday 1.25PM - 3:55PM .

Main Lecture Location West Duke 204

Professor's Email carlotta.pavese@duke.edu.

Office West Duke Building, Philosophy department, room 2011.

Office Hours Wednesday 4pm-6pm.

Website There will be a Sakai site for the course.

# **Course Description**

Language is a symbolic system, that is, these marks on the page or the sounds I make when I speak have meanings attached to them. Philosophy of language asks questions like: how do these symbols come to have meanings at all? What meanings do they have? How are these meanings conveyed? What is meaning in the first place? In this course, we will look at one particular type of sentence that is particularly puzzling: the conditional. The first half of the course will focus on indicative conditionals, e.g. If Oswald didn't kill Kennedy, someone else did. The second half of the course will focus on subjunctive conditionals, e.g. If Oswald hadn't killed Kennedy, someone else would have. We will address questions like: what do these types of sentences mean? What information do they communicate? What makes them true (or false)? Are they the sorts of things that can have traditional meanings at all, or do we have to reconsider our general idea of what meaning is? We use conditionals in every day conversation, ordinary reasoning, and philosophical theories of knowledge, causation, freedom etc, but answering the question of what they mean turns out to be very difficult indeed. The best logic and semantic treatment of the English language conditional, or of a philosophically regimented conditional well-suited to these analytic tasks, is a subject of ongoing dispute. The central topic of discussions will be whether conditionals can be taken to express facts and propositions—whether learning that if *p* then *q* amounts to genuine factual learning—and whether conditional beliefs and knowledge should be thought along the same lines as categorical beliefs and categorical

knowledge. We will a few guest lecturers through the course of the semester, including Walter Sinnott-Armstrong and Sara Bernstein (I am waiting to hear back from other two potential guest lecturers).

#### **Required book**

#### Mandatory:

- Bennett, A Philosophical Guide to Conditionals, New York: Oxford University Press (2003);
- 2. Lewis, David. Counterfactuals. John Wiley Sons, 2013;
- 3. Collins, John David, and Edward Jonathan Hall. *Causation and counterfactuals*. MIT Press, 2004;
- Kratzer, Angelika. Modals and conditionals: New and revised perspectives. Vol. 36. Oxford University Press, 2012.

**Other Readings**: All other readings will be available electronically on Sakai. You should print these out and bring them to class.

#### Grading:

- **Essay** Final essay (50%). Outline of the essay is due on November 4th. On November 18th, each graduate student will have to give a presentation of their project for the final essay. The final essay (12-15 pages) is then due on December 20th. No incompletes.
- **2 Student Readings Presentations** 10%. Every student is required to do two presentations on two of the readings during the semester. If student is presenting on day *n*, they need to send me an outline of their presentation by day *n*-2.
- **Midterm** 30%. There will be a take-home midterm. Deadline October 28 (You will get it on October 14).
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours 10%. At the end of October, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours (Wednesday 4-6).

**Policy on Absences**: Students are expected to attend all classes. **(Provisional) Schedule** 

The following schedule is only provisional and most likely subject to changes as we go on.

# 1st week Wednesday When: August 26th 2015.

Readings:

1. Bennett, A Philosophical Guide to Conditionals, Ch. 1

*Topic*: Introduction to the course, to the Philosophy of language and to the philosophy of conditionals.

2nd week Wednesday When: September 2nd 2015.

Readings

1. Bennett, A Philosophical Guide to Conditionals, Chs. 2-3, chapter 9.

2. Grice, "Logic and Conversation".

3. Jackson "On Assertion and Indicative Conditionals".

Topic: Material conditional analyses.

# 3rd week Wednesday When: September 9th 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Bennett, Chapter 4 and 5.
- 2. Lewis, "Probabilities of Conditionals and Conditional Probabilities" (Kobi).
- 3. Van Fraassen's "Conditional Probability".

*Topic*: The equation: arguments for and against.

#### 4th week Wednesday When: September 16th 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Bennett, chapter 6 and 7
- 2. Gibbard, "Two Recent Theories of Conditionals" (Michael).
- 3. Edgington On conditionals (Max).

Topic: Arguments for non truth conditional analyses of indicative conditionals.

# 5th week Wednesday When: September 23rd 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Stalnaker "Indicative Conditional".
- 2. Leitbeg's "Conditional beliefs and beliefs in a conditional".

*Topic*: Stalnaker on indicatives and more discussion on the non-truth conditional analysis.

# 6th week Wednesday When: September 30th 2015.

Readings:

- 1. Rothchild "Do conditionals express propositions?"
- 2. Will Starr "Indicative conditionals, Strictly".

*Topic*: Indicatives as Strict Conditionals.

#### 7th week Wednesday When: October 7th 2015.

- 1. Bennett chapter 10 and 11.
- 2. Lewis Counterfactuals (portions).
- 3. Stalnaker A theory of conditionals. (Paul)

*Topic*: Subjunctives, I.

8th week Wednesday When: October 14th 2015. Readings:

1. Chapter 3 and 4 of Modals and Conditionals (Max).

2. Lewis Ordering semantics and premise semantics.

Topics Kratzer on conditionals. Subjectives II

9th week Wednesday When: October 21st 2015.

Readings:

1. Hajek All counterfactuals are false. (Kobi)

2. Karen Lewis Elusive Counterfactuals. (Michael)

Topic: Subjunctives, III.

10th week Wednesday When: October 28th 2015. To be rescheduled.

11th week Wednesday When: November 4th 2015.

*Readings*: Lewis' "Causation as Influence". Barnett "Suppositionalism about conditionals"

Topic: Counterfactual and Causation. Part I (Paul)

12th week Wednesday When: November 11th 2015.

Readings TBD

*Topic*: Counterfactuals and causation. Part II Guest Lecturer: Sara Bernstein.

13th week Wednesday When: November 18th 2015.

Topic: Graduate students' final paper presentation.

Readings:

No readings

# PHIL 250: Symbolic Logic

February 17, 2016

Instructor Carlotta Pavese, PhD Main Lecture Time Wednesday and Friday 10:05AM - 11:20AM Main Lecture Location West Duke 108A Professor's Email carlotta.pavese@duke.edu Office West Duke Building, Philosophy department, room 2011 Office Hours Fridays 12-2pm Website There will be a Sakai site

**Course Description** This course is an advanced course in Symbolic logic. You cannot take this class unless you have taken PHIL 150 Logic before or an equivalent class. You should ALREADY be quite comfortable doing deductions in sentential as well as in first-order logic. If you are not, this class is NOT for you. If you are in doubt, ask me and I will let you know if you are eligible to take this class. In your elementary logic class — the class you must have taken before this one in order to enroll—you have been exposed to the art of logic: you have been trained to prove things in very simple logical systems. But you have not studied the properties of such logical systems. This is what we will do in this class: we will study the science of logic. We will try to understand classical logical systems and look at whether they have certain properties that we will learn to appreciate —- at whether they are *consistent* and *complete*. We will learn that certain notable systems, such as Peano Arithmetic, are incomplete and we will try to understand the technical and the philosophical significance of this fact. In the final part of the course, we will look at an extension of classical logic — modal logic — that is of special interest for philosophers. We will learn how to do deductions in this logic and will discuss different possible interpretations of the modal language. Most of material covered in this class is technical. Doing the exercises when they are due is paramount. We will schedule an extra weekly hour to go over the tricky ones together. Throughout the class, we will also encounter and discuss a variety of fascinating philosophical questions on the nature of logic, on the nature of languages, and on the nature of meaning.

#### **Required book**

Mandatory:

• "Notes on the Science of Logic," Nuel Belnap (abbreviated throughout as "NoSoL"), which you can download at the following link:

http://www.pitt.edu/~belnap/nsl.pdf

• Smullyan's book on Incompleteness:

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https://www.dropbox.com/s/6j66hlotz1sc3ws/Smullyan%20-%20G%C3%B6del%27s%
20Incompleteness%20Theorems%20volume%2019%20of%20Oxford%20Logic%20Guides.
pdf?dl=0
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• "Modal Logic for Philosophers," Garson, which you can download here:

http://www.franko.lviv.ua/faculty/mechmat/Departments/Logic/EN/Gar.pdf
Optional but highly recommended:

- "Computability and Logic," George Boolos, John Burgess and Richard Jeffrey, Fifth Edition, Cambridge University Press 2007.
- "Philosophical Logic," John Burgess, Princeton University Press 2009.

**Other Readings**: We will also read stuff from Hodges' "A Shorter Model Theory," Cambridge University Press 1997 and other books. But the relevant material from these books will be made available electronically on Sakai. If you want to revise some sentential and first-order logic before the beginning of the semester (you should if it has been a while since you have taken PHIL 150), I recommend you familiarize with Belnap's "Notes on the Art of Logic," available here http://www.pitt.edu/~belnap/nal.pdf. In some cases, I recommend more than one readings per class. They are labeled "optional". The point of this is to offer you with more resources to better understand a topic: often different representations of the same problems facilitate comprehension.

**Requirements on Exercises:** *Unless otherwise instructed*, if pages n to m are assigned from Belnap "Notes on the Science of Logic" as a reading for a given day and those pages contain exercises  $e_1$  to  $e_n$ , you are supposed to do all of  $e_1$  to  $e_n$  and hand them to me in class that very same day. For the purpose of the final grade, it does not matter AT ALL whether you did them correctly or not. What DOES matter is that you try to do them and hand them to me in class when assigned. If Belnap dabbed an exercise as "Optional", the exercise is indeed optional for the purpose of this class. If a reading from any other book is assigned, instead, I will make clear in advance whether you are supposed to hand in the exercises therein contained. There will be 7 quizzes spread out through the semester. These are mainly FOR ME to check whether everybody in the class is keeping up with the material.

Grading for Undergraduates:

Midterm 35% Final Exam 45% Quizzes 10% Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours, exercises 10% At the end of February, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours (Friday 12-2pm).

# Grading for Graduate Students:

Midterm 35%

- Final TAKE-HOME Exam 45% (due May 7th, by email).
- Quizzes 10%
- Attendance, class discussion, mandatory office hours, exercises 10% At the end of February, students have to mandatorily meet once with the professor during office hours (Friday 12-2pm).

**Policy on Absences**: Students are expected to attend all classes. There is no way to learn this material unless you do the exercises every time and come to class.

# (Provisional) Schedule

The following schedule is only provisional and most likely subject to changes as we go on.

- **1st week Friday January 15th 2016** *Readings*: Chapter I of NoSoL. Chapter II of NoSoL, 2A.
  - *Topic*: Introduction to the Science of Logic. Truth Values and Truth Functions.
- 2nd week Wednesday January 20th 2016 Readings: Chapter II of NoSoL, 2B.
  - *Topic*: The Grammar of Sentential Languages.

# Friday January 22nd 2016 First quiz

- *Readings*: Canceled weather.
- *Topic*: Canceled weather.

# 3rd week Wednesday January 27th 2016 • Readings: Chapter II of NoSoL, 2B

• *Topic*: The Grammar, continued.

Friday January 29th 2016 • *Readings*: Chapter II of NoSoL, 2D-1-2.

• *Topic*: Semantics for a Sentential Language: Evaluations, Models, Truth, and the Expressive Power of a Language.

# 4th week Wednesday 3rd February 2016 • *Readings*: Chapter II of NoSoL, 2D 3-5.

• *Topic*: Semantics, continued.

# Friday 5th February 2016 Second Quiz

- Readings: Chapter II of NoSoL, SD-3-5.
- *Topic*: Semantics Continued.

**5th week Wednesday 10th February 2016** • *Reading*: Chapter 2, 2E-1-2

• Topic Proof theory.

Friday 12th February 2016 • *Readings*: Chapter 2, 2E-3-4.

• *Topic* Proof Theory.

# 6th week Wednesday 17th February 2016 Third Quiz

• *Readings*: Chapter 2 of NoSoL: 2F 1,2.

• *Topic*: Consistency and introduction to Completeness.

Friday 19th February 2016 • *Readings*: Chapter 2 of NoSoL: 2F 3-5.

• Topic: Completeness, slow proof of Lindenbaum's lemma.

**7th week Wednesday 24 February 2016** • *Readings*: Chapter 3 of NoSoL: 3A, 3B-1,2.

• *Topic*: The Grammar of a predicative language.

**Friday 26 February 2015** • Chapter 3 of NoSoL: 3C; Optional: Boolos and Al: Chapter 10. Hodges, Chapter IV (selections).

• *Topic*: Semantics for Predicative Logic: Interpretations, Models, and Truth.

8th week Wednesday 2nd March 2016 • *Readings*: Chapter 3 of NoSol, 3C.

• *Topic*: Semantics, continued.

Friday 4th March 2016 Fourth Quiz

- *Readings*: Chapter 3 of NoSol, 3D.
- *Topic*: Proof Theory

**9th week Wednesday 9th March 2016** • *Readings*: Chapter 3 of NoSol, 3D.

• *Topic*: Proof Theory Continued.

Friday 11th March 2016 Midterm.

10th week Wednesday 15th March 2016 No class, spring recess.

Friday 18th March 2016 No class, spring recess.

11th week Wednesday 23rd March 2016 • Readings: Chapter 3 of NoSol, 3E.

• *Topic*: Completeness.

# Friday 25th March 2016 Fifth Quiz

- *Readings*: Chapter 3 of NoSol, 3G.
- Topic Completeness for predicative logic with identity.

12th week Wednesday 30th March 2016 • Readings: Boolos, TBD

• Topic Lowenheim-skolem and compactness.

Friday 1st April 2016 • *Readings*: Smullyan, TBD.

• *Topic* Introduction to incompleteness.

# 13th week Wednesday 6th April 2016 Sixth Quiz

• Readings: Smullyan TBD

- *Topic*: More incompleteness.
- Friday 8th April 2016 Readings: Smullyan TBD.
  - *Topic*: More incompleteness.
- 14 week Wednesday 13th April 2016 Seventh Quiz.
  - Readings: Garson's Modal Logic for Philosophers, TBD.
  - *Topic*: Semantics for propositional modal logic.
  - Friday 15th April 2016 Readings: Garson's Modal Logic for Philosophers, TBD.
    - *Topic*: Semantics for first-order modal logic.
- **15 week Wednesday 20th April 2016** *Readings*: Garson's Modal Logic for Philosophers, chapter 13; Optional: Burgess, Chapter 3.
  - Topic: Semantics for first-order Modal Logic. Continued.
  - **Friday 22nd April 2016** *Readings*: Garson's Modal Logic for Philosophers TBD
    - *Topic*: TBD.
- **16 week Wednesday 27th April 2016** *Readings*: Garson's Modal Logic for Philosophers TBD.
  - *Topic*: The logic of provability.