

Phil 132 – Spring 2023

Gila Sher

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T, TH 3:30-5:50 PM

Office Hour: T 2-3 PM

Dept of Phil, room 0482

Topic: Epistemic Revolutions from the Beginning of the 20th-century to the Present

Epistemology underwent several revolutions from the beginning of the 20th-century to the present. Starting with background classes on truth and logic, we will proceed to study seven major revolutions in 20th-century epistemology. The goal is to critically evaluate these revolutions in an attempt to anticipate the future direction of epistemology.

Grades: Midterm (1/3 of grade), Paper (1/3 of grade), Final (1/3 of grade).

Paper: On a topic studied in class. 10-15 pp. Should demonstrate knowledge and independent thinking. Due on last day of the course.

Integrity Requirements in Force.

All reading materials are either on the Internet or on Canvas under "Files".

Schedule of Classes & Readings:

T 4/4 *Introduction to Class*

Sher: Epistemic Friction and Freedom - *Epistemic Friction* - 1

Th 4/6 *Truth and Knowledge*

Sher: The Basic Epistemic Situation - *Epistemic Friction* - 5.1

Sher: The Fundamental Principle of Truth, The "Manifold" Correspondence Principle - *Epistemic Friction* - 8.1, 8.3

T 4/11 *The Logical Revolution*

Frege: Begriffsschrift, A Formula Language ... for Pure Thought - Preface
Klement: Gottlob Frege - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Opening paragraph and Sections 1-2.

Th 4/13 *The Linguistic/Analytic Turn*

Preston: Analytic Philosophy - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Introductory

paragraph and Sections 1,2,4.

T 4/18

Cont.

Russell: On Denoting

Th 4/20

The Revolution against the Analytic Definition of Knowledge

Gettier: Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?

T 4/25

Cont.

Ichikawa & Steup: The Analysis of Knowledge. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on the Internet.

Th 4/27

The Logical Empiricist/Positivist Revolution

Carnap: The Logical Structure of the World, pp. v-xi, xv-xviii, 5-15.

Carnap: Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology.

T 5/2

Cont.

Creath: Logical Empiricism. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Up to (and including) Section 4.2.

Quine: Truth by Convention.

Th 5/4

Preparation for Midterm

T 5/9

Midterm

Th 5/11

The Revolution against Logical Empiricism / the Analytic-Synthetic Bifurcation

Quine: "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

T 5/16

Cont.

Sher: Quine's Model of Knowledge: An Inner Tension - *Epistemic Friction* - 3.

Th 5/18

The Holistic Anti-Foundation Revolution.

Sosa: The Raft and the Pyramid

Sher: Epistemic Friction and the Illusion of Foundationalism - *Epist Friction* - 2.1

T 5/23

Cont.

Rorty: Knowledge as Needing "Foundations" - *Phil and the Mirror of Nature* - 3.4
BonJour: The Dialectic of Foundationalism and Coherentism

Th 5/25 *The Holistic Foundational Revolution.*

Sher: From Foundationalism to *Foundational Holism* - *Epistemic Friction* - 2.2

T 5/30 *Cont.*

Sher: The Foundational Problem of Logic - *Epistemic Friction* - 9
Sher: Is Logic in the Mind or in the World

Th 6/1 *The Naturalist Revolution*

Quine: Epistemology Naturalized

T 6/6 *Cont.*

Stroud: Naturalized Epistemology - *The Significance of Phil. Scepticism* - 6

Th 6/8 *Preparation for Final*