

PHI 539: Theory of Knowledge: Epistemic Injustice
Princeton University, Spring 2019

Tuesdays 1:30-4:20pm
Marx Hall 301

Professor Susan J. Brison
118 1879 Hall

Office hours Thurs. 2:00-4:00 and at other times by appointment: please contact
sbrison@princeton.edu

This seminar will focus on a topic at the intersection of epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy: epistemic injustice. In it, we will examine issues in social epistemology, with a focus on how social identities and standing affect knowledge production and reception. Topics will include: testimonial and hermeneutical injustice, standpoint epistemology, implicit bias, stereotype threat, trust and self-trust, epistemologies of ignorance, and the politics of credibility.

We will begin with an examination of M. Fricker's 2007 book, *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, along with her most recent work on the subject. We will then discuss articles by, among others, M. Moody-Adams, C. Mills, T. Shelby, S. Haslanger, C.A. MacKinnon, J. Medina, K. Dotson, N. Tuana, L.M. Alcoff, P.H. Collins, K.Q. Hall, R. McKinnon, and R. Dembroff, with a special emphasis on work published in the last two years.

The one required text is Miranda Fricker's *Epistemic Injustice: Power & the Ethics of Knowing*, available (at a 30% discount) at Labyrinth Books.

All other readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site. If you are not officially enrolled in this course, please send me your email address so I can add you to the Blackboard "Users" list. Please check e-mail regularly for announcements about the course sent via Blackboard.

Class visitors will be: Miranda Fricker, on Tuesday, February 12; Charles Mills, on Tuesday, February 26; Robin Dembroff, on Tuesday, March 5; and Sally Haslanger, on Tuesday, March 26.

Requirements:

- Completion of the readings before the class for which they are assigned
- **Class participation (worth 25% of the final grade)**
 - Regular attendance
 - Informed and constructive contributions to class discussion
 - Leading a class discussion on one of the weeks
- **One Final (16–18 page, double-spaced) paper (worth 75% of final grade)**
 - Due Dean's Date: Tuesday, May 14th, by 5:00pm. Email to instructor.

Laptops, tablets, phones and other electronic devices may not be used in class, except when permitted for specific research or pedagogical purposes.

You are hereby reminded of your obligation to uphold the honor code. It is not a violation of the honor code to discuss class material—including written assignments—with others. In fact, you are encouraged to do so. However, if you receive help from others on written work, you must give credit to those persons.

I encourage students with disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as chronic diseases and learning disabilities, to discuss with me, as early as possible, appropriate accommodations that might be helpful to them.

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Some of the material we'll be reading/viewing in this course may be triggering or distressing, especially to victims of hate speech or of sexual harassment/assault. On-campus resources include <https://share.princeton.edu>, <http://fieldscenter.princeton.edu>, and <http://lgbt.princeton.edu>.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Dates	Topics	Readings
Feb. 5	Epistemic Injustice: Its Origins in Critical Race, Decolonial, and Feminist Theory	“The Combahee River Collective Statement” (handout) Excerpts from W.E.B. DuBois, “The Souls of Black Folk”; F. Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> ; C. MacKinnon, “Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State” (handouts)
Feb. 12	Testimonial and Hermeneutical Injustice	M. Fricker, <i>Epistemic Injustice: Power & the Ethics of Knowing</i> —— “Evolving Concepts of Epistemic Injustice”
<i>Miranda Fricker visits our class on Feb. 12</i>		
Feb. 19	Feminist Standpoint Epistemology Affected Ignorance	N. Tuana, “Feminist Epistemology: The Subject of Knowledge” M. Moody-Adams, “Culture, Responsibility, and Affected Ignorance”
Feb. 26	White Ignorance and Ideal Theory as Epistemic Injustice	C. Mills, “White Ignorance” —— “Through a Glass, Whitely: Ideal Theory as Epistemic Injustice” —— “Ideology”
<i>Charles Mills visits our class on Feb. 26</i>		
		(optional) M. Fricker, “Epistemic Injustice and the Preservation of Ignorance” (on C. Mills, “White

Mar. 5	Content Focused Epistemic Injustice; Queer and Trans Issues	Ignorance") R. Dembroff and D. Whitcomb, "Content Focused Epistemic Injustice" (draft) K. Hall, "Queer Epistemology and Epistemic Injustice" R. McKinnon, "Allies Behaving Badly: Gaslighting as Epistemic Injustice" R. Dembroff, "Why Be Nonbinary?"
--------	---	--

Robin Dembroff visits our class on Mar. 5

Mar. 12 Sonny	Racism and Ideology	T. Shelby, "Ideology, Racism, and Critical Social Theory" S. Haslanger. "Racism, Ideology, and Social Movements"
-------------------------	---------------------	---

spring break

Mar. 25-29: week of Sally Haslanger's Hempel Lectures, 101 McCormick

Mon., Mar. 25, 4:00-6:00pm, S. Haslanger, Lecture #1: "Ideology in Practice,"

Mar. 26	Cognition as a Social Skill	S. Haslanger, "Cognition as a Social Skill" _____, "Replies to Commentators" _____, "Objectivity, Epistemic Objectification, and Oppression" (optional)
---------	-----------------------------	---

Sally Haslanger visits our class on Mar. 26

Thurs., Mar. 28, 12:00-1:20pm, 301 Marx, S. Haslanger, SCPT lunchtime talk: "Failures of Methodological Individualism: The Materiality of Social Systems"

Thurs., Mar. 28, 4:00-6:00pm, S. Haslanger, Lecture #2: "Conceptual Amelioration: Going On, Not in the Same Way"

Fri., Mar. 29, 4:00-6:00pm, S. Haslanger, Lecture #3: "Critical Standpoints and the Epistemology of Injustice"

Apr. 2 Elena	Epistemic Oppression	M. Frye, "Oppression" I.M. Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"
------------------------	----------------------	---

Apr. 9 Paulina	Decolonial Theory and Hermeneutical Injustice	M. Lugones, "Playfulness, 'World-travelling', and Loving Perception" M. Lugones & E. Spelman, "Have We Got a Theory for You! Feminist Theory, Cultural Imperialism, and the Demand for 'the Woman's Voice'" A. Lorde, "The Uses of Anger" L. Alcoff, "Philosophy and Philosophical Practice: Eurocentrism as an Epistemology of Ignorance"
--------------------------	---	---

Apr. 16 Adele	Epistemic Exploitation and Epistemic Pushback	N. Berenstain, "Epistemic Exploitation" A. Bailey, "Tracking Privilege Preserving Epistemic Pushback in Feminist and Critical Race Philosophy Classes"
Jade	Epistemic Oppression	K. Dotson, "A Cautionary Tale: On Limiting Epistemic Oppression" _____, "Conceptualizing Epistemic Oppression"
Apr. 23 Eleanor	The Politics of Credibility and of Self-trust	K. Jones, "The Politics of Credibility" _____, "The Politics of Intellectual Self-trust"
Bridget	Pornography, Rape Culture, and Victim Testimony	Readings (to be determined) may include C. MacKinnon, TBD; B. Crewe and J. J. Ichikawa, "Rape Culture and Epistemology;" K. Jenkins, "Rape and Abuse Myths as Hermeneutical Injustices"
Apr. 30 Haley	Affective Injustice. Anger, and Resistance	A. Srinivasin, "The Aptness of Anger" A. Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology"
Candace		J. Medina, <i>The Epistemology of Resistance</i> , Ch. 1 M. Cherry, "Love, Anger, and Racial Injustice"