

Philosophy 132
Epistemology
Fall 2011
Prof. G. Sher

Topic: 20th-Century Epistemology in a Quinean Prism.

Grades: Midterm - 30%, Paper - 30%, Final - 40%.

Texts: On Internet Reserves

M 9/26 Introduction to Class

Part I. Traditional Epistemology, Logical Empiricism, and Quine's Revolution

W 9/28 Traditional Foundationalism & Logical Empiricism. (Reading: Sosa - "The Foundations of Foundationalism".)

M 10/3 Carnap's *Logical Structure of the World* as a Foundationalist Project. (Reading: Selection from the book.)

W 10/5 Carnap's "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology" as an Empiricist-Conventionalist Manifesto

M 10/10 Quine Against Carnap's Conventionalism: "Truth by Convention".

W 10/12 Quine Against Carnap on Logic: "Carnap & Logical Truth".

M 10/17 Quine's Revolution Against Traditional & Carnapian Epistemology: "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

W 10/19 A Critical Evaluation of "Two Dogmas of Empiricism." (Reading: Sher - "Is There a Place for Philosophy in Quine's Theory?".)

M 10/24 Knowledge and Ontology: Quine on "What There Is".

W 10/26 **Midterm Exam**

Part II. Quine & the Naturalist Turn: A Critical Evaluation

M 10/31 Empiricism & the Problem of Abstract Knowledge. (Reading: Hume - "An Abstract of A Treatise of Human Nature".)

W 11/2 Quine's "Epistemology Naturalize": What Is the Argument?

M 11/7 Quine's "Epistemology Naturalized": Critical Evaluation.

W 11/9 Quine vs. Quine? - “Five Milestones of Empiricism” & “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”.

Part III. Quine’s Ontological Relativity: Relativity of Knowledge?

M 11/14 Quine’s “Ontological Relativity”: A Psychological Perspective.

W 11/16 Quine’s “Ontological Relativity”: A Logical Perspective.

M 11/21 Is Ontological Relativity Epistemic relativity? (Reading: Bergstron - “Quine, Underdetermination & Skepticism”.)

Part IV. Epistemology Beyond Naturalism

W 11/23 The “New” Apriori. (Reading: Friedman - “The Relativized Apriori”)

M 11/28 Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis: First Philosophy, Naturalized Philosophy, Philosophy

W 11/30 Conclusion