

Phil 232  
Epistemology  
Gila Sher  
Spring 2024  
Thursdays 4-6:50  
Office hour: Th 2:30-3:30

## **TRUTH: HISTORIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND MORAL DIMENSIONS**

In this seminar we focus on three central dimensions of truth: historic, scientific, and moral. We start with the historical origins of the philosophical theory of truth in Aristotle. We then proceed to challenges posed by science to the theory of truth and vice versa. And we conclude with truth in the moral sphere.

Visitors are welcome!

Grades: A 15-20 page paper and a class presentation.

### **Syllabus**

Th 4/4            The Present State of the Philosophy of Truth, the Post-Truth Challenge, and What we Lose when we Lose Truth

#### ***Dimensions of Truth I: History***

Th 4/11            "An Overview of Aristotle's Theory of Truth"  
Crivelli: *Aristotle on Truth*, pp. 1-41.

Th 4/18            Aristotle on Truth Conditions and Correspondence  
Crivelli: pp. 77-138.

Th 4/25            Aristotle on Truth and Change, Truth and Determinism  
Crivelli: pp. 183-233.

#### ***Dimensions of Truth II: Science***

Th 5/2            Realism (Correspondence Truth) vs. Humeanism

Kitcher: "Real Realism: The Galilean Strategy"  
Boghal: "Humeanism about Laws of Nature"  
[Kocsis et al.: "Humean Metaphysics and the Scientific Image", Section 2]  
[Chen: "Realism about the Wave Function"]

Th 5/9 Realism vs. Pragmatism

James: "Pragmatism's Conception of Truth"

Chang: "How to Take Realism beyond Foot-Stomping"

Chang: "Pragmatist Coherence as the Source of Truth and Reality"

Th 5/16 Enlightened Correspondence in Science and Mathematics

Sher: "The Human Value of Truth:

1. Epistemic and Moral Origins,
2. An Enlightened Correspondence Value,
3. Science,
4. Mathematics." Draft

***Dimensions of Truth III: Ethics***

Th 5/23 The Source of Moral Values

Korsgaard: "The Sources of Normativity"

De Waal: "Morality Evolved: Primate Social Instincts, Human Morality, and the Rise and Fall of 'Veneer Theory'"

Street: "A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value"

Th 5/30 Human Values and Moral Values

Sher: "What are Human Values?" (Draft)

Sher: "What are Moral Values?" (Draft)

Hacker: "The Roots of Value and the Nature of Morality"

[Railton: "Subject-Ive and Objective"]

Th 6/6 Truth as Enlightened-Correspondence with Moral Values

Enoch: "Why I am an Objectivist About Ethics (and Why You are, Too)"

Sher: "Enlightened Correspondence in Ethics" (Draft)

Mackie: "The Subjectivity of Values"