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.
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<tr>
<td>W 11/9</td>
<td>Quine vs. Quine? - “Five Milestones of Empiricism” &amp; “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”.</td>
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<td><strong>Part III.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quine’s Ontological Relativity: Relativity of Knowledge?</strong></td>
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<td>M 11/14</td>
<td>Quine’s “Ontological Relativity”: A Psychological Perspective.</td>
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<td>W 11/16</td>
<td>Quine’s “Ontological Relativity”: A Logical Perspective.</td>
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<td>M 11/21</td>
<td>Is Ontological Relativity Epistemic relativity? (Reading: Bergstron - “Quine, Underdetermination &amp; Skepticism”.)</td>
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<td><strong>Part IV.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Epistemology Beyond Naturalism</strong></td>
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<td>W 11/23</td>
<td>The “New” Apriori. (Reading: Friedman - “The Relativized Apriori”</td>
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<td>W 11/30</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
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