

Spring 2022: Philosophy 425/625: Topics in Epistemology Provisional Syllabus, 20 January 2022

Mondays 1:30-3:20, LC 104, after first two meetings.

First two meetings on-line:

Fri., 1/28: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/95040017602>

Mon., 1/31: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/97706376187>

DeRose office hour: Tuesdays (on which Yale classes meet) 1:50-2:40, in Connecticut Hall 410, after first two weeks

First two weeks (1/25, 2/1) on-line: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/5431691069>

Course Description: A seminar on several current topics in epistemology, focusing on recent literature. Topics will vary from year to year.

Course Requirements: For Auditors: Auditors should do the readings for each meeting, and attend in participate in each week's discussion. Optional: auditors can lead a

Course Requirements: For Those taking the course: Those taking the course should:

- do the readings for each meeting, and attend in participate in each week's discussion
- class size permitting [this will be decided after the first meeting of the class, but is likely]: each student will lead about 55 minutes of a seminar, presenting one of the class readings (or a part thereof), and leading discussion of it
- Written work (submitted by email attachment to keith.derose@yale.edu)
 - Phil. 425: Two distinct papers, each 2,500-3,500 words (about 7-10 pages) long, on topics directly related to the topics of the course, and each preceded by a brief (about 100 words) topic proposal. Due dates (all Fridays):
 - Proposal for first paper: Feb. 25
 - First paper: due March 11
 - Proposal for second paper: April 15
 - Second paper: April 29
 - Phil. 650: Three options:
 - Two papers, with earlier proposals, just like the Phil. 425 papers above, with the same due dates. Or
 - Two papers: First proposal and paper as above. Second paper: an expansion of the first, 5,000-7,000 words, due on April 29, with a proposal for the expansion due on April 15. Or
 - One paper, 5,000-7,000 words long (about 14-20 pages), due on April 29, preceded by a short (about 100-150 word) proposal, due April 15

Topics: The topics that will be covered over the course of the semester will hopefully follow student interest, and will be discussed at the opening meetings, but the semester will open on the topic of "Desert Epistemology" (epistemology of "knowledge deserts" – like philosophy!) and will start with

these two readings, which you should do if possible before our first meeting, and in any case, should have downloaded and ready to look at as we discuss them:

1. Desert epistemology. Readings:

-Zachary Barnett, "Philosophy without Belief," *Mind* 128 (2019): 109-138:

<https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzw076> (pdf should be available with a Yale internet connection or Yale VPN)

-KDR, "Thoughts about Belief, Knowledge, and Assertion in Philosophical Settings and Other Knowledge Deserts," Appendix C of *The Appearance of Ignorance*: available in the Files tab on the Canvas page for our course

Please let me know right away if you have trouble accessing either of the readings

--more readings and topics to come