

## **Feminist and Post-Colonial Epistemologies**

**PHILO 78700**

**Mondays 2:00-4:00, room 7314**

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Office Hours at Grad. Center: Mondays 12:30-1:30

Office Hours at Hunter: Wednesdays 3:30-5:00, Hunter West 1419

This course will explore two historical legacies of epistemic injustice in order to consider the relationship between knowledge, epistemology, and power. We will pursue questions such as the following: What counts as epistemic injustice? What role has western epistemology played in regard to promoting, and also ameliorating, epistemic injustice? What are the *epistemic* lessons to be learned--- not simply the sociological or political ones---from the history of preemptive epistemic disauthorization of women and whole groups of people across the globe? The work that we will read includes feminist epistemology, post-colonial studies, social epistemology and science studies.

Beyond the critical project, we will look at work that develops normative reconstructions of epistemology with these histories in mind. These include, for example, proposals to build in a reflexivity about the political and social context in which belief formation and justification occurs, to reassess the role of certain social and political values as epistemic virtues, and to explore the role of identity in judgment. Innovative concepts such as “border gnosis,” “postcolonial standpoint theory,” and “pluritopic hermeneutics” will also be explored and assessed.

### Requirements:

There are two types of written assignments required. The first type consists of a 2-3 page weekly essay on the week's reading assignment. These will require students to pick two or three main points of the readings to explain. The focus will be on explication here more than criticism, but it is also a space for you to raise your questions. Occasionally I will give students a topic to write the weekly essay about, a question around which students should organize their remarks. These essays will be graded and inadequate essays will be returned with an option to rewrite.

There is also a 10-15 page paper due at the end of the term on some aspect of the course topics. By about the last third of the course (Nov. 16) students will be expected to have a three to five page draft of this paper to be read by the instructor for feedback. No extra reading beyond the required reading will be necessary for these papers. Final papers will be due in mid-December, exact date tba.

Required Books: The following are available at Shakespeare and Co., on Lexington Ave between 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup>:

1. Walter D. Mignolo, Local Histories, Global Designs
2. Miranda Fricker Epistemic Injustice
3. Susan Buck-Morss Hegel, Haiti and Universal History
4. Sue Campbell Relational Remembering
5. Sandra Harding Sciences From Below
6. Coloniality at Large eds. Morana, Dussel, Juarequi

There will also be some essays available for xeroxing in a folder in the dept lounge.

Schedule of readings:

Aug. 31 Introduction to the class

(no class Labor Day)

Sept. 14 Fricker chaps 1-4

Sept. 21 Fricker chaps 5-7

Sept. 29 (*Tuesday = Monday*) Lorraine Code, chaps 3, 6, 7 from Rhetorical Spaces

Oct. 5 Campbell chaps 1-3

Oct. 14 (*Wednesday = Monday*) Campbell chaps 4-6, 8

Oct. 19 Alison Wylie, "Why Standpoint Matters"; Harding, intro and chap 4, 6

Oct. 26 Harding chaps 1, 5, 7

Nov. 2 Buck-Morss

Nov. 9 Coronil, "Beyond Occidentalism" and Coloniality at Large essays by Coronil and Rabasa,

Nov. 16 Coloniality at Large essays by Quijano, Castro-Gómez, Grosfoguel

Nov. 23 Mignolo, Intro and chaps 1, 2

Nov. 30 Mignolo, chaps 7, conclusion

Dec. 7 Coloniality at Large essays by Pratt, Walsh, Arias

