PHIL 411/541: Theory of Knowledge
T-TH 12:30-1:45, 224 Social Sciences

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:00

Texts
The texts required for this course are available on the following website: http://comesana.arizona.edu/?page_id=106.

Course Overview
This course will be an introduction to some of the main problems of epistemology, the branch of philosophy that deals with questions about knowledge, justification and rationality. This semester we will be concerned mainly with questions about whether we can decide to believe, and whether we can believe for practical reasons.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to know and strictly follow the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. Read the Code thoroughly, if you have not already done so. You can find it at: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity. Any violation of academic integrity—any instance of cheating—is grounds for the unconditional failure of the course and possible expulsion from the University.

Exams
There will be three in-class exams. The first one will be worth 20% of the final grade, and the second and third will be worth 25% each. There will also be a final exam worth 30%.

Etiquette
You are required to come to class having read the required texts and ready to participate. You cannot bring a laptop, all cell phones must be turned off (not merely silenced), and you cannot do Sudokus, crossword-puzzles, read newspapers or, in general, do anything other than paying attention and participating in the discussion when appropriate.
Schedule (tentative)
Week 1 ..........................................................Introduction
Week 2 .........................................................The Gettier problem: Gettier
Week 3 ..........................Clifford on the Ethics of Belief: Clifford
Week 4 ......................James on the Will to Believe: James
Week 5 ........................Van Inwagen on Clifford: Van Inwagen
Week 6 ..........................................Pascal’s Wager: Hájek
Week 7 .......................Deciding to Believe: Williams
Week 8 ...................................Deciding to Believe: Ginet
Week 9 ......................................... Deontology: Alston
Week 10 .......................Rationality and Consequences: Kelly
Week 11 ...........................................Evidentialism: Feldman
Week 12 ..................................The Aim of Belief: Shah
Week 13 ............................ The Toxin Puzzle: Kavka
Week 14 ......................Control and The Will: Hieronymi
Week 15 ............................... What About Me?: Comesaña