

Phil 102: Introduction to Theory of Knowledge
Professor Ben Smith

3rd Paper Assignment
The final paper is due Tuesday, March 31

Write on one of the following topics. The paper may not be less than 3,500 words and may not be more than 4,000 words. Please include a word count. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Plagiarism will be punished to the full extent of university policy. A paper submitted after the due date will receive a penalty of a grade for every day it is late (A⁻ becomes B⁺, etc.).

A 1g 2 page outline of your essay is due Tuesday, March 31.

For general guidance on writing philosophy papers or taking philosophy exams; I recommend adapting the advice from:
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>.

Finally, you must use a minimum of 6 scholarly sources to provide evidence in support of your views. Up to 3 of these sources can be ones provided in class. At least 3 of the sources must be ones you find yourself. Please use Chicago Manual of Style for your formatting.

(1) What is the Gettier problem? How effective are Gettier examples in attacking the standard account of knowledge? Which of the five strategies discussed in class (the no-essential-false-assumption approach, the indefeasibility theory by Lehrer/Paxson, Goldman's causal theory, Sartwell's knowledge-is-true-belief approach, and Hertherington's failibilism) best solves the Gettier problem? Why? Note: rather than discussing all five strategies, you should concentrate on the one you find the most plausible. If you think the strategy of your choice can be improved, explain how.

(2) You may suspect that virtually every analysis of the concept of knowledge depends on an appeal to certain intuitions, but there always seems to be some other intuition to serve as a counterexample to any given analysis. What does this tell us about the concept of knowledge? Is it reasonable to expect that epistemologists will ever come up with *the* correct analysis of the concept of knowledge or is it impossible to define "knowledge"? Explain your answer.