

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AFRICA
SEMESTER
PHIL 3500: EPISTEMOLOGY AND GENDER
FRIDAY:
CLASSROOM B5
INSTRUCTOR:
CREDIT: 3 UNITS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A philosophical implication of the sociology of knowledge with particular focus on the role, and place of gender in forming our picture of the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the course is to cultivate critical skills necessary for the creation of an inquiring mind by providing the student with epistemological tools through which they can explore and appraise the heritage of human knowledge.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- Meaning and nature of philosophy
- The nature of Epistemology

WEEK 2 & 3: THE CONCEPT KNOWLEDGE

- Meaning of knowledge
- Categories of knowledge
- Conditions for knowledge

Assignment 1: Comment on the statement that knowledge is justified true belief.

Deadline: 14 days from the date of assignment.

WEEK 4: OPERATION OF THE MIND

- Simple apprehension
- Judgment
- Reasoning

WEEK 5: COMMON SENSE KNOWLEDGE

- Types and Characteristics of common sense knowledge
- Obstacles to clear thinking

WEEK 6: SOURCES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

- Reason (rationalism)
- Senses (empiricism)
- Intuition
- Deduction
- Testimony (Authority of others)
- Revelation (Visions, miracles, apparitions etc)

TERM PAPER: What is the relevance of the topic 'sources of knowledge' to you as a human being?

WEEK 7: THEORIES OF TRUTH

- Correspondence theory
- Coherence theory
- Pragmatic theory

TERM PAPER: What is the relevance of the topic 'sources of knowledge' to you as a human being?

DEADLINE: 21 days after the date of assignment.

WEEK 8: MID-QUARTER EXAMS

EPISTEMOLOGICAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF GENDER STUDIES

WEEK 9: CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING

- The concept Gender
- Rationale for gender studies

WEEK 10 & 11: REASONS FOR RISE OF GENDER CONSCIOUSNESS

- Gender contradictions
- Structural changes in society
- Political ideas of the enlightenment
- Evangelical Christianity
- Communitary socialism

- Fertility and changes in population structure
- Post world war labor needs

WEEK 12 and 13: SOCIETY AND GENDER KNOWLEDGE

- Social constructionism
- Bio-social interactionism
- Women rights and human rights

WEEK 14: FINAL EXAMS

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted through a combination of conventional lectures, seminars and class interaction

READING MATERIAL

Students are advised to read as widely as is possible on matters that pertain to gender and feminism. But core texts include:

1. **Readings in Epistemology** available at the course text.
2. L.A. Mattei, **An Introduction to Philosophy**. Nairobi: Consolata Institute of Philosophy, 1994
3. B. Russell, **Problems of Philosophy**. New York: OUP, 1980
4. A. April and Gordon Brudler, **Transforming Capitalism and Patriarchy: Gender and Development in Africa**. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1996.
5. J. Habermas, **Knowledge and Human Interest**. London: Heinemann Books 1998
6. R.M. Chisholm, **Theory of Knowledge** (Various Editions)
7. E. Janeway, **Man's World, Woman's Place: A Study in Social Mythology**. New York William Marrow press, 1971.
8. M. Musheno and S. Kathryn, 'Prostitution and the Women's Movement: A Historical Analysis of Feminist Thought and Organization', in **The Journal of Contemporary Crises Vol. 10, No.3 (1987): pp. 237-255**

EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10
Class assignment	20
Term Paper	20

Mid-quarter	20
Final exams	30
TOTAL	100

GRADING

USIU grading will apply.

GRADING

A	90 - 100
A-	87 - 89
B+	84 - 86
B	80 - 83
B-	77 - 79
C+	74 - 76
C	70 - 73
C-	67 - 69
D+	64 - 66
D	62 - 63
D-	60 - 61
F	0 - 59