

BC4050 SENIOR SEMINAR: IDEOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE, AND POWER

Time:	R 2:10-4:00
Place:	318 Milbank Hall
Professor:	Karen Lewis
Email:	klewis@barnard.edu
Office:	Milbank Hall 326E
Office Hours:	By appointment

Course Description

An ideology is a system of beliefs, attitudes, and ideas that shapes how people see the political or social world. Taking into account that we are all immersed in various ideologies raises important philosophical questions in areas like ethics, epistemology, philosophy of language and more. For example, how does ideology affect the way we interact with the world? How does ideology give rise to injustice, and of what sort, and how can this be corrected? How does it affect our ability to know, or our ability to be knowledge givers? How does it affect the way certain social groups are perceived, or how we are perceived or treated as members of those groups? How does ideology feed into systems of power in society? How does it affect the way we communicate? Though the books we will read for this class are each on different topics, they all touch on these questions in different ways.

Textbooks

1. *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, by Miranda Fricker. Oxford University Press, 2007. (Electronic text available in full through the Columbia library. Available for purchase on [Amazon](#))
2. *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*, by Kate Manne. Oxford University Press, 2017. (Available for purchase on [Amazon](#))
3. *How Propaganda Works*, by Jason Stanley. Princeton University Press, 2015. (Available for purchase on [Amazon](#))

Website

This course has a Canvas site. The syllabus, assignments, and other resources will be posted on the site. Updates and announcements will also be posted on the site, so be sure to check it regularly.

Course Requirements

1. Papers: You are required to write 3 papers, 1 on each book we are reading. Papers will not require, but will allow, outside research. Each paper will be approximately 2000 words. You are expected to develop your own topics for the papers and have them approved by me. I am happy to meet with you and suggest topics if you are having trouble coming up with one.

2. Reading responses/discussion preparation papers: You are required to write a short reading response or short discussion preparation paper (as appropriate for that week) of approximately 300-500 words each week and submit it by Wednesday at midnight. You are allowed to skip 2 reading responses over the course of the semester without having your final grade penalized, as long as the 2 skipped are **not on the same book** (e.g., you may skip one week on the Fricker book and one week on the Stanley book, but not 2 weeks on the Stanley book). You may not skip discussion preparation papers except in extenuating circumstance (illness, emergency, etc.).
3. Participation: You are expected to attend seminar each week having completed the reading and ready to discuss it. This is not a lecture class — if you are not ready to discuss the reading, there will be a lot of silence. Students who miss more than 2 sessions may be penalized in their final grade at my discretion.

Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

Paper with the highest grade: 35%

Paper with the next highest grade: 25%

Paper with the lowest grade: 20%

Reading Responses/Discussion Preparation papers: 10%

Participation: 10%

Due dates:

Paper 1 (on Fricker): Sunday, Oct. 14 by midnight

Paper 2 (on Manne): Sunday, Nov. 11 by midnight

Paper 3 (on Stanley): Sunday, Dec. 16 by midnight

Class etiquette, Professionalism, and Academic Integrity

I expect you to behave ethically and professionally. This means coming to class each week prepared to actively engage in the seminar. I expect you to treat each other and each other's ideas respectfully. This does not mean you should not be critical (quite the opposite!), but do so in a respectful manner. We are all responsible for making this seminar a welcoming and philosophically productive environment for every member of the class.

I take academic integrity very seriously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Schedule of readings

Readings should be read by the date for which they are listed.

Date	Reading
9/6	No reading, introduction to the course
9/13	Fricker, chs. 1-2
9/20	Fricker, chs. 3-5
9/27	Fricker, chs. 6-7
10/4	No reading. Wrap up discussion on Fricker; discussion with Professor Miranda Fricker (in person)
10/11	Manne TBD
10/18	Manne TBD
10/25	Manne TBD
11/1	Stanley TBD
11/8	No reading. Wrap up discussion on Manne; discussion with Professor Kate Manne (via skype)
11/15	Stanley TBD
11/22	Thanksgiving NO CLASS
11/29	Stanley TBD
12/6	No reading. Wrap up discussion on Stanley; discussion with Professor Jason Stanley (via skype)