

Spring 2014
PHI 202, Section 03
Third Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, six pages in length, on one of the following topics. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources appropriately. Your typed and stapled essay is due on May 20th at 12:30.

1. What does W.V.O. Quine argue in (the difficult) “Two Dogmas of Empiricism,” and what are the implications of his epistemological critique? Use three additional sources.
2. How does Edmund Gettier challenge traditional epistemology in “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?” What are his famous counter-examples, and what do you make of them? Use two additional sources.
3. What does Thomas Kuhn argue in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and what are his examples of “paradigm shifts”? Do you think that his analysis of science is convincing? Use two additional sources.
4. According to V. F. Cordova, what are the most important features of Native American philosophy? What is the Native American conception of the human being, and what do you make of it? Use two additional sources.
5. What is the debate between John Rawls, the author of *A Theory of Justice*, and Robert Nozick, the author of *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*? What are their positions, and what do you make of them? Use three additional sources.
6. What does Carol Gilligan argue in *In A Different Voice*, and how does it relate to the ethics of care? What is the ethics of care, and how is it different than other approaches to ethical theory? Use two additional sources.
7. According to Cornel West, what is “prophetic pragmatism,” and what are the traditions that contribute to it? What do you think of this unique approach to philosophical thinking? Use three additional sources.
8. What does Patricia Hill Collins argue in “Black Feminist Epistemology,” and how is her argument related to standpoint epistemology? What do you think of this approach to knowledge? Use two additional sources.
9. What are the important philosophical themes in “African-American Philosophy, Race, and the Geography of Reason” by Lewis R. Gordon? What do you make of his critique of philosophy? Use two additional sources.
10. This is not a question. I just like round numbers. Cheers!