There are four **required texts** for the class:

(ii) Peter Lipton, *Inference to the Best Explanation.* (‘IBE’ below).
*This is the recently-released 2nd edition of this book.*
(iii) C.A.J. Coady, *Testimony: A Philosophical Study.*
(iv) A Course Reader.

Each of the four is available from the U-Store.

**Prerequisites:** Some previous experience with philosophy is expected. (This class is not suitable as an introduction to the subject.)

**Requirements:** Approximately 45 pages of difficult reading per week (sometimes more, sometimes fewer). Attendance at weekly preceptorials is also required. Evaluation will be based on the following:

- A 5-7 page paper due on 3/9: 25% of final grade.
- A 5-7 page paper due on 4/27: 30% of final grade.
- A comprehensive final examination: 35% of final grade.
- Precept participation: 10% of final grade.
**Class Schedule (subject to change at the Professor’s discretion):**

**Introduction**

1. Monday, 1/31. Course Overview

**The Traditional Analysis of Knowledge**


(2) Feldman, *Epistemology*, Chapter 3, “Modifying the Traditional Analysis of Knowledge”.

**The Ethics of Belief**

(2) Feldman, *Epistemology*, Chapter 4, “Evidentialist Theories of Knowledge and Justification”, pp.39-49. (That is: you should read the section entitled “Evidentialism”).

The Infinite Regress Argument; Foundationalism and Coherentism

6. Wednesday, 2/16. (1) Feldman, Epistemology, Chapter 4, “Evidentialist Theories of Knowledge and Justification”, pp.49-80 only.


What is a ‘proof’? What would it take to prove (disprove) God’s existence?


Externalism

9. Monday, 2/28. (1) Feldman, Epistemology, Chapter 5, “Nonevidentialist Theories of Knowledge and Justification” pp.81-86; 90-99 only. (That is, you should read the sections entitled “The Causal Theory” and “Reliabilism”.)

10. Wednesday, 3/2. Continued

Skepticism about Knowledge of the External World


12. Wednesday, 3/9. *First papers due*

   (1) Feldman, Epistemology, Chapter Seven, “Skepticism (II)”, pp.141-156 only. (That is, you should read the section entitled “Ordinary-Standards Skepticism and Best Explanations” and the appendix on Contextualism.)

Monday, 3/14. No Class (Spring Break)
Wednesday, 3/16. No Class (Spring Break)


**Induction and Inference to the Best Explanation**


14. Wednesday, 3/23. (1) Lipton, IBE, “Preface to the first edition” (first two paragraphs only) and “Introduction”.

(2) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 1, “Induction”.


(2) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 3, “The Causal Model”, pp.30-37 only (‘Fact and Foil’).

16. Wednesday, 3/30. (1) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 4, “Inference to the Best Explanation”

(2) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 10, “Prediction and Prejudice”, pp.164-168 only (‘The Puzzle’)

(3) [Optional: The remainder of chapter 10]

17. Monday, 4/4. (1) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 9, “Loveliness and Truth”.

18. Wednesday, 4/6. (1) Lipton, IBE, Chapter 11, “Truth and Explanation”.

**Relativism and Disagreement**


(2) Feldman, Epistemology, Chapter 7, “Epistemological Relativism”, pp.177-190.
Testimony


24. Wednesday, 4/27.  *Second Papers Due*


Recommended readings on testimony:


Comprehensive Final Examination: Place and Time TBA