

John Dewey's *The Quest for Certainty*

Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
Spring 2017

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Course number: PHI 53060
Time: Monday, 13:15–16:30
Office Hours: *By Appointment*

Course Description

This reading course in Theoretical Philosophy focuses on John Dewey's 1929 Gifford Lectures, "The Quest for Certainty."

Course Requirements

There are two requirements for the course: (i) in-class participation; (ii) one short (~1000 word) philosophical essay. All assignments are to be completed in English.

1. *In-class participation*: You will be evaluated by the quality, rather than quantity, of your contributions to class discussion.
2. *Short paper*: You are required to write one short philosophical essay for the course that is **no longer than 1000 words**. You will be penalized for going over this limit. This word limit is designed to help you to economize your writing, since you *only* have 1000 words with which to make a clear argument and substantive philosophical point. A good rule of thumb for writing a successful short essay is to think of a paper that you would currently attempt to write in 1500 words, then revise that essay to fit within the 1000 word limit.

Online Registration

To access course materials and submit your assignments, students must register for *Dewey Reading Course* online by sending me an **email to receive an invitation to join the course**.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated by a weighted average using the following weights:

Class Participation: 30%

One 1000 word essay: 70%

Required Texts

Dewey, J. (1960). *The Quest for Certainty*. Gifford Lectures of 1929. New York: Capricorn Books.

Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	TOPIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ READINGS ● PAPER DUE DATE
MAR 13	(1) (2)	Introduction to the American Pragmatists 'Escape from Peril'	○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 1)
MAR 20	(3) (4)	'Philosophy's Search for the Immutable' 'Conflict of Authorities'	○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 2) ○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 3)
MAR 27	(5) (6)	'The Art of Acceptance and the Art of Control' 'Ideas at Work' & 'The Play of Ideas'	○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 4) ○ (Dewey 1960, Chs 5,6)
APR 3	(7) (8)	'Intellectual Authority' & 'Naturalized Intelligence' 'The Supremacy of Method'	○ (Dewey 1960, Chs 7,8) ○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 9)
APR 10	(9) (10)	'The Construction of Good' 'The Copernican Revolution'	○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 10) ○ (Dewey 1960, Ch 11)
APR 29			● FINAL ESSAY