



PHIL*2240 Knowledge and Belief

Fall 2018

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - August 31, 2018

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to epistemology, which is the study of the nature, scope, and limits of knowledge. This course will examine a number of the central questions in epistemology, such as: what can we know? What is the nature of knowledge? And what is the difference between knowledge and true belief?

Pre-Requisite(s): 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1030, PHIL*1050)

Equate(s): PHIL*2250

1.2 Course Description

In this course we will explore a number of fundamental questions in the field of epistemology, or theory of knowledge. In our advanced digital age, it is relatively easy to get information, and as a result we think we know a lot about a lot of different things. But what, precisely, is knowledge? And how is it different from mere opinion? What role does truth play in demarking the difference? And do true beliefs need to be backed up by evidence? These questions have been debated since Ancient times, and we will examine them while also considering some emerging questions in social epistemology, feminist epistemology and the epistemology of ignorance.

1.3 Timetable

Lectures: T/TH 10:00 – 11:20, McKinnon 224

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

EXAM Monday December 10, 2018

2:30pm - 4:30pm, Room TBA

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructor(s)

Karyn Freedman Associate Professor

Email: karynf@uoguelph.ca

Telephone: 519-824-4120 x 53232

Office: 354 MacKinnon

Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3, or by appointment

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

Textbook (Textbook)

Pritchard, Duncan. *What is this Thing Called Knowledge?* 4th ed. (Routledge, 2018).

Selected readings (identified on the syllabus as ARES) will be made available to you online through the library's ARES E-Course Reserve System: <https://ares.lib.uoguelph.ca/ares/>

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Understand, explain, and assess* major developments in the recent history of epistemology;
 2. *Identify and critically evaluate* the practical and cultural significance of epistemology;
 3. *Organize and present* a philosophical theory and engage with others in the development of a defense and critique of the theory;
 4. *Argue* successfully for your own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

September 6	Class mechanics; Introduction	Pritchard Ch. 1
September 11	Value of Knowledge	Pritchard Chapter 2
September 13	Defining Knowledge; Gettier	Pritchard Chapter 3; E. Gettier ARES
September 18	The Structure of Knowledge QUIZ #1	Pritchard Chapter 4
September 20	Rationality	Pritchard Chapter 5
September 25	Virtues and Faculties	Pritchard Chapter 6
September 27	Perception QUIZ #2	Pritchard Chapter 7
October 2	Testimony and Memory	Pritchard Chapter 8
October 4	A Priority and Inference	Pritchard Chapter 9
October 9	<i>Study Day – no classes</i>	
October 11	The Problem of Induction; Midterm review	Pritchard Chapter 10
October 16	Midterm	
October 18	Politics * Essay topic handout	Pritchard Chapter 17
October 23	Epistemic Injustice	M. Fricker ARES
October 25	Scientific Knowledge	Pritchard Chapter 11

October 30	Religious Knowledge QUIZ #3	Pritchard Chapter 12
November 1	Moral Knowledge	Pritchard Chapter 13
November 6	Technology * Essay due	Pritchard Chapter 14
November 8	Education	Pritchard Chapter 15
November 13	Scepticism About Other Minds	Pritchard Chapter 18
November 15	Radical Scepticism QUIZ #4	Pritchard Chapter 19
November 20	Truth and objectivity	Pritchard Chapter 20
November 22	Truth and Subjectivity	L. Code ARES
November 27	White Ignorance QUIZ #5	C. Mills ARES
November 29	Final exam review	

6 Assessments

Evaluation

1. Midterm test: 30%. This will be an in-class test. It may include some definitions, true/false questions, short answer and long answer questions.

- **Students unable to write the mid-term test for medical reasons will be required to submit a medical certificate.** Students who miss the test for medical or religious reasons will be given one opportunity to do a rewrite.

2. 5 in-class quizzes (5 x 3%): 15%. These quizzes will be given in the last 30 minutes of class and will consist of a number of the *Study Questions* (or some portion thereof) which appear at the end of each chapter of the Pritchard text. You will be tested *only* on material that we have covered in class prior to the quiz. You can earn a grade of 1/3 if you complete the quiz and get at least some of it right; you can earn a grade of 2/3 if you complete the quiz and get over half of it right; or you can earn a grade of 3/3 if you complete the quiz and get most of it right. You will get a 0/3 if you don't do the quiz or get it entirely wrong.

3. One 3-page essay (20%). Topics for the essay will be handed out at least 2 weeks prior to the due date.

- **Late essays will be penalized 2% per day unless accompanied by a medical certificate.**
- **Note:** The philosophy department does not accept late essays at the front office and I do not accept emailed essays. Essays must be handed in to me, in person, either in class or during my office hours.

4. Final exam: 35%. This will take place during the Final Exam Period as scheduled by the College of Arts. The exam may include some definitions, true/false questions, short answer and long answer questions.

- Students who are unable to write the final exam due to medical or religious reasons must follow the guidelines set out in Undergraduate Calendar.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a

teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

7.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

7.6 Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate

or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.
