

# PHIL 1050 Ethics, Knowledge and Reality

**Code and section:** PHIL\*1050\*01

**Term:** Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Andrew Wayne

## Method of Delivery:

In-person lectures and seminars

## Course Synopsis:

This course is an introduction to the problems and methods of philosophy. Readings are from original texts by philosophers from René Descartes to Helen Longino. The course focuses on three topics.

- Knowledge and belief: what do I know about the world?
- Scientific method: should I believe the results of science?
- Free will and moral responsibility: did my neurons make me do it?

The course has three main aims.

- To master the content of the material;
- To develop the ability to formulate one's thoughts clearly and cogently, the ability to express oneself with precision and rigour, and the ability to approach texts and arguments in an open-minded yet critical way;
- To gain an appreciation of philosophy and philosophical method, including its history, its central problems and its connections with other intellectual endeavours.

## Assignments & Means of Evaluation

- Weekly reading comments through Perusall
- Weekly reading responses
- Weekly seminar participation
- Two midterm tests
- Final exam

## Required Textbooks:

- Andrew Bailey (ed), *The Broadview Introduction to Philosophy Volume I: Knowledge and Reality* (Broadview Press, 2019). The digital text is available from within CourseLink by going to the Content tab and clicking Perusall.
- Additional readings provided through CourseLink and/or Perusall.

## Disclaimer:

*\* Please note: This is a preliminary web course outline only. The Philosophy Department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.*