

**Course Code: PHIL 3820**

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Course Title: Epistemology (知識論)

2016-17 Term 1

Instructor: Cheung, Kam Ching Leo (張錦青) (email: leokccheung@cuhk.edu.hk)

Tutor: TBA

Time / Venue (Lecture): Wednesday 11:30-13:15 / TC Cheng Building C2

*BLACKBOARD LEARN will be used for this course.*

**Course Description:**

This course aims to introduce the basic concepts, issues and theories in Epistemology. The topics to be discussed include different theories of truth, different types of skepticism and some responses, the tripartite definition of knowledge, the Gettier Problem, the analysis of knowledge, externalism (about knowledge and justification) and internalism, foundationalism and coherentism. This course assumes a certain level of analytical and logical skills. Students are expected to engage in critical, analytical and argumentative evaluation of the theories and arguments in Epistemology encountered in this course.

**Learning outcomes:**

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- understand the basic concepts in Epistemology.
- demonstrate familiarity with the major issues and prominent theses and positions in Epistemology.
- appreciate the main concerns and the nature of the major issues in Epistemology.
- acquire skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in Epistemology.
- enhance the ability of logical reasoning and argumentation and that of philosophical analysis.

### **Learning activities:**

Learning activities of this course include lectures, tutorials, reading essays and writing a term paper:

1. Lecture: 2 hours a week (mandatory).
2. Tutorial class: one two-hour session every two weeks (mandatory).
3. Term paper writing.
4. Preparation for the final examination.

In this course, students are required to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to read assigned essays before the lectures and study tutorial materials before the tutorial classes.

Students are also expected to devote sufficient time to the writing of the term paper throughout the whole course. Surveying and reading the relevant literature and analyzing the materials are essential to the production of a satisfactory term paper.

Students should be able to develop and enhance their analytical and argumentative skills through discussion in tutorials and classroom and writing the term paper.

### **Assessment:**

Tutorial presentation and participation	(25%)
Term Paper*	(35%)
Examination	(40%)

### **Term paper:**

Word limit of the term paper: 3000-5000

Deadline for term paper: TBA

### **Attention:**

In your *term paper and short essay*, if there are any ideas, opinions and/or materials which are taken from others, no matter whether you quote them word by word or not, you MUST provide the sources. Otherwise, you would be considered as having committed Plagiarism. (Please also refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for 'Honesty in Academic Work'.)

Students are required to submit their term papers to the **VeriGuide** system before handing them in. Please visit the following website for the VeriGuide system: <http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp>

### **Outline Content:**

1. Introduction: What is epistemology?
2. Truth
3. High Standards Skepticism
4. The Tripartite Definition of Knowledge
5. The Gettier Problem
6. The Analysis of Knowledge
7. Ordinary Standards Skepticism
8. Contextualism
9. Skepticism and the Closure Principle
10. Externalism versus Internalism
11. Foundationalism
12. Coherentism

### **References:**

- \*\*Audi, R. (2003). *Epistemology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. London: Routledge.
- Bonjour, L. and Sosa, E. (2003). *Epistemic Justification*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- \*\*Bernecker, S. (2006). *Reading Epistemology—selected tests with interactive commentary*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Chisholm, R. M. (1989). *Theory of Knowledge*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. NJ: Prentice Hall.
- \*\*Dancy, J. and Sosa, E. eds. (2010). *A Companion to Epistemology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.

- \*\*Feldman, R. (2003). *Epistemology*. NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Fumerton, R. (2006). *Epistemology*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Goldman, A. (1986). *Epistemology and Cognition*. Cambridge: Harvard U. Press.
- Greco, J. and Sosa, E. (1999). *The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Hamlyn, D. W. (1970). *The Theory of Knowledge*. London: Macmillian.
- Hetherington, S. C. (1996). *Knowledge Puzzles*. Oxford: Westview.
- Horwich, P. (1998). *Truth*. Oxford: Clarendon.
- Kripke, S. (2011). 'Nozick on Knowledge', contained in S. Kripke, *Philosophical Troubles—Collected Papers Volume One*, Oxford: OUP: 162-224.
- Lehrer, K. (1990). *Theory of Knowledge*. London: Routledge.
- Moser, P. ed. (1996). *Empirical Knowledge*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edn. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- \*\*Nozick, R. (1981). *Philosophical Explanations*. Cambridge: Harvard U. Press.
- Pappas, G. and Swain, M. eds. (1978). *Essays on Knowledge and Justification*. Ithaca: Cornell U. Press.
- Pollock, J. and Cruz, J. (1999). *Contemporary Theories of Knowledge*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Putnam, H. (1981). *Reason, Truth and History*. Cambridge: Harvard U. Press.
- Quine, W. V. *From a Logical Point of View*. Cambridge: Harvard U. Press 1980.
- \*\*Shope, R. K. (1983). *The Analysis of Knowing. A Decade of Research*. NJ: Princeton U. Press.
- Stroud, B. (1994). *The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism*. Oxford: OUP.
- White, A. R. (1971). *Truth*. London: Macmillian.
- Williamson, T. (2002). *Knowledge and Its Limits*. Oxford: OUP.

\*\* . These books are reserved at the University Library (with 4 hours loan period).

## **Tutorial topics:**

All the materials are from:

Bernecker, S. (2006). *Reading Epistemology—selected tests with interactive commentary*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Topic (1): On John L. Pollock, ‘The Gettier Problem’

Source: Bernecker (2006: 7-14).

Topic (2): On Robert Nozick, ‘Conditions for Knowledge’

Source: Bernecker (2006: 14-26).

Topic (3): On Ernst Sosa, ‘Reliabilism and Intellectual Virtue’

Source: Bernecker (2006: 80-92).

Topic (4): On Michael Williams, ‘Realism and Scepticism’

Source: Bernecker (2006: 173-85).

Topic (5): On Matthias Steup, ‘A Defense of Internalism’

Source: Bernecker (2006: 60-80).

## **Academic honesty and plagiarism:**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.