



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2019

PH1020 (A3): Knowledge and Reality - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tina Strasbourg **PHONE:** 780-539-2237
OFFICE: C408 **E-MAIL:** tstrasbourg@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Mon/Wed 11:30 to 12:30 and Tue/Thurs 2:30 to 3:30

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the classical problems of philosophy through study and critical discussion of selected philosophical classics and contemporary works. Emphasis will be placed on questions of the nature and extent of human knowledge and classic problems about the nature of reality and our place in it.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Jack S. Crumley II. An Introduction to Epistemology 2nd edition, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2009.

Resource Materials links posted on Moodle.

DELIVERY MODE (S): Lectures and discussions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of important historical approaches to epistemology and metaphysics.
2. To develop critical thinking and problem solving skills through the philosophical analysis of course content.
3. To examine assumptions, values, goals, principles and actions as they affect our individual and collective understanding of knowledge and reality.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learning outcomes stressed in this course are Communication Skills, Thinking Skills and Philosophical Reasoning.

1. Students will use **Communication Skills** in

- Communicating clearly and concisely employing written and verbal skills appropriate to class assignments and discussion
- Demonstrating interpersonal skills by listening effectively, establishing rapport, monitoring non-verbal signals
- Expressing awareness of, and respect for self and others
- See section on Philosophical Etiquette for a further description

2. Students will use **Thinking Skills** in

- Analyzing theoretical concepts and examining the connections between them
- Critically assessing philosophical theories and arguments in support of these theories

3. Students will use **Philosophical Reasoning** in

- Applying philosophical reasoning to practical situations
- Recognizing and examining multiple perspectives
- Analyzing and discussing issues from a philosophical perspective

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, GMU, KUC

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

In Class Exam	20%	Date: February 5
In Class Exam	20%	Date: March 21
Critical Essay	20%	Date: March 28
Final Exam	30%	Date: TBA
Participation	10%	

Critical Essays: Late work will be penalized in the absence of a valid excuse. The assignment grade will be reduced by 10% each day it is overdue.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Week 1	Course Outline	
Week 2	Introduction to Philosophy	Crumley, Introduction
Week 3	Skepticism	Crumley, Chapter One
Week 4	Analysis of Knowledge	Crumley, Chapter Two
Week 5	Reliabilism	Crumley, Chapter Three
Week 6	Exam 1—February 5th Foundationalism	Crumley, Chapter Four
Week 7	Foundationalism cont'd Guest Speaker, February 14 th	Topic Social Epistemology
Week 8	Reading Week—No Class	
Week 9	Library Presentation How to Write a Philosophy Paper	
Week 10	Guest Speaker March 5 th	Topic Indigenous Ways of Knowing
Week 11	Feminist Epistemology	Crumley, Chapter Eight
Week 12	Feminist Epistemology cont'd Exam 2—March 21st	
Week 13	Social Epistemology Critical Essay Due, March 28th	Reading Posted on Moodle
Week 14	Mind/Brain Identity Theory	Reading Posted on Moodle
Week 15	Mind/Brain Identity Theory cont'd Final Exam Review	

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Regular attendance and participation in discussion is expected. Participation is a way to help advance the discussion, gain understanding of course material and encourage others.
2. Please do not be late for class.
3. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Do not fall behind in the assigned readings because it is difficult to catch up.
4. If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain lecture material and the reading assignment.
5. Policies regarding final exams are governed by college-wide policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the GPRC Calendar. In particular, student should consult the GPRC Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams, but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Additional Information:

Philosophical Etiquette

Contrary to popular belief philosophy is not a blood sport. A philosophical discussion should not be thought of as an opportunity to participate in arguments that are meant to crush one's opponent. Rather it is an opportunity, first and foremost, to gain an understanding of philosophical concepts. Second, it should inspire critical analysis of philosophical concepts. And finally, it should facilitate fruitful discussion. I expect all students to show good philosophical etiquette, which is to exhibit mutual respect for each other's ideas and comments and that people not be *purposefully* offensive.

Pet Peeves

Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class. The sound of binders closing and people packing-up books before I've indicated that the class is over. Trying to talk over people who are discussing their weekend plans during class time. Unstapled assignments. Use of laptops or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.