



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2018

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 main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlinerearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** 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 1
In Class Exam	20%	Date: March 1
Critical Essay	20%	Date: April 5
Final Exam	30%	Date: TBA
Participation	10%	

Critical Essays: (2-3 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins).

1. Your essay will be a short philosophical discussion and critique of any of the philosophical arguments discussed in class. Your critical analysis must include at least one of the theories covered in class. **Do not summarize the text.**
 2. Your essay should have a clear, concise thesis statement. Think of a thesis statement as the conclusion for which you will build an argument in your critical essay. You will be deducted marks for not including a thesis statement.
 3. Your essay should reference at least one academic article from the course material in addition to the assigned case study.
 4. Use whichever citation style with which you are comfortable (just use it consistently and correctly). You will be deducted marks for incorrect citations.
- Note: Unless previously discussed, I will not accept email assignments. I will count these as late until I receive a hard copy.
 - 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.

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

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— First Exam
Week 6	Foundationalism	Crumley, Chapter Four
Week 7	Social Epistemology	Guest Speaker —Reading TBA
Week 8	Reading Week—No Class	
Week 9	Social Epist. Cont'd	Second Exam
Week 10	Feminist Epistemology	Reading TBA
Week 11	Feminist Epist. Cont'd	Reading TBA
Week 12	Nature of Personal Identity	Reading TBA
Week 13	Nature of Mind	Reading TBA
Week 14	Nature of God	Reading TBA— Critical Essay Due
Week 15	Review	

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 Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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 on the same page.

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.