

# Undergraduate Epistemology Course

course number here

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<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Paper: 40%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exams: 40%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Participation: 20%													

## Required Texts

Laurence Bonjour, *Epistemology: Classic Problems and Contemporary Responses* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002).

Paul Boghossian, *Fear of Knowledge* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Other texts listed in the reading schedule will be provided through the course website. These have been marked with an asterisk (\*) on the tentative reading schedule.

## Course Description

In this course, we will study some of the fundamental issues in contemporary philosophical studies of epistemology. Some of these topics include investigating the concepts of knowledge and justification, the internalism/externalism debate, the structure of justification, whether we perceive the external world directly, the possibility of *a priori* knowledge/justification, and the whether we can have any knowledge/justified beliefs about the external world.

## Exams

The course will have two exams, a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will consist entirely in essays that are based on the course readings and class lectures. More details will be given about the exams in class. Each exam is worth 20% of the student's overall grade.

## Paper Requirement

Students will write a 12-15 page paper for the course that focuses on one of the readings or topics for this course. This paper will count for 40% of the student's overall grade. More specific instructions about the paper will be given in class. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor for advice and help in writing their papers.

## Attendance & Participation

Given the difficult nature of many of the readings and topics covered in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. Students will receive 20% of their overall grade based on their attendance and participation in the course.

### **Minimal Passing Requirement**

In order to pass the course students must meet three basic requirements: (1) they must take all exams; (2) they must turn in the paper; and (3) they must attend at least three-fourths of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions are subject to fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

## **Tentative Reading Schedule**

### **Week 1: The Subject of Epistemology**

BonJour, chapter 1

### **Week 2: Descartes's Epistemology**

BonJour, chapter 2

Descartes, *Meditations* 1-3\*

### **Week 3: The Analysis of Knowledge**

BonJour, chapter 3

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief

Knowledge?"\*

### **Week 4: The Problem of Induction**

BonJour, chapter 4

Russell, "On Induction"\*

### **Week 5: A Priori Justification & Knowledge**

BonJour, chapter 5

### **Week 6: Immediate Justification**

BonJour, chapter 6

### **Week 7: Knowledge of the External World**

BonJour, chapter 7

### **Week 8: Other Minds, Testimony & Memory**

BonJour, chapter 8

*Midterm Exam*

### **Week 9: Foundationalism & Coherentism**

BonJour, chapter 9

### **Week 10: Internalism and Externalism**

BonJour, chapter 10

### **Week 11: Naturalized Epistemology**

BonJour, chapter 11

### **Week 12: Skepticism**

BonJour, chapter 12

Moore, "Proof of an External World"\*

### **Week 13: Relativism & Epistemology**

Boghossian, chapters 1-3

### **Week 14: Relativism & Epistemology**

Boghossian, chapters 4-6

### **Week 15: Relativism & Epistemology**

Boghossian, chapters 7-9

*Final Exam*