

PHIL 102E Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

3 Credits, 16 weeks, 3 hours lecture

This course provides the student with an introduction to the perennial problems of philosophy through the study and critical discussion of selected and modern works. The aim of this course is twofold. The student will be introduced to the domain and method of philosophical inquiry. More specifically the student will examine in some detail the areas of epistemology and metaphysics. Epistemology is concerned primarily with the nature of knowledge and metaphysics is concerned with the nature of reality.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Mondays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Tuesdays 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Fridays 3:00pm – 4:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Thursdays 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Required Resources

A course package has been designed specifically for this course and is available in the campus bookstore.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the main epistemological and sceptical positions in philosophy.
2. Identify some key metaphysical and epistemological debates in philosophy.
3. Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a mid-term, term paper, a final exam and on-line discussion topics. Below is a brief description of each assignment, as well as relevant due dates. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

On-line Discussions	TBA	10%
First Exam	12 February	25%
Term Paper	12 March	25%
Final Exam	TBA	40%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

On-line Discussions

At five points throughout the term I will post discussion topics for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 10%, and therefore 2% for every post. Your response does not have to be lengthy, about a paragraph, but must exhibit understanding of the material and clarity of presentation. Students therefore will be assessed on how well they understand the relevant material and how clearly they present their ideas in written form. Each topic will be available for only week and late submissions will not be accepted.

First Exam

The first exam will cover material considered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, short-answer questions and an essay question. The essay question will be provided before the exam, and it will follow the same format as the term paper. A review of the material will also occur before the exam, and students will be given a specific outline of the exam, including mark distribution, a week before the exam occurs. The value of this exam is 25% of the total grade.

Term Paper

The term paper should be between 5-7 pages (or 1500-2100 words), contain at least two references from the course reading list. A topics list will be provided for the term paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this topic list or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The value of the term paper is 25% of the total grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include short answer questions and likely two essay questions. More details will be offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of the final exam is 40% of the total grade.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
Progression	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	

Poor	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
Minimum Pass	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

Section One: Knowledge

1. Epistemology (Theories of Knowledge)

Readings: Plato, (2001), "Theaetatus," pp.201-208.

Elliot Sober, (2001), "Descartes's Foundationalism," pp.158-162.

René Descartes, (1999), "Meditations on First Philosophy," pp.116-127.

Noah Lemos (2007), "The coherence theory of justification," pp.66-84.

Edmund L. Gettier, (1963), "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" pp.121-123.

Alvin I. Goldman, (1978), "A Causal Theory of Knowing," pp.67-86.

2. Scepticism

Readings: Peter Unger, (1994), "A Defence of Skepticism," pp.30-35.

Sextus Empiricus, (2000), *Outlines of Scepticism*, pp.2-11 of 248.

Ludwig Wittgenstein, (1969), *On Certainty*, pp.9e, 18e, 22e, 27e, 30e, 39e, 44e, 48e, 69e.

Mark Young (2004), "Did Wittgenstein Refute the Sceptic?" pp.99-112.

Section Two: Reality

3. Mind and Body

Readings: C. E. M. Joad, (1994), "The Mind as Distinct from the Body," pp.166-171.

William S. Robinson, (1994), "Why I am a Dualist," pp.171-179.

Richard Taylor, (1994), "The Case for Materialism," pp.179-189.

4. Immortality of the Soul

Readings: Paul Edwards, (2003), "An Argument Against Survival: The Dependence of Consciousness on the Brain," pp.381-390.

John Hick, (2003), "In Defense of Immortality," pp.390-397.

5. Free Will versus Determinism

Readings: Baron D'Holbach, (2003), "We Are Completely Determined," pp.405-410.

Roderick M. Chisholm, (2003), "Human Freedom and the Self," pp.435-442.

W. T. Stace, (2003), "Compatibalism," pp.443-449.

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other

forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

Performance Requirements

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment

Penalties for academic offences range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing

to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Authorization

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

[First Name, Last Name], Instructor

[First Name, Last Name], Chair

Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor

Registrar's Office