



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
*School of Arts & Science*  
*Humanities*

**Phil. 203, Theory of Knowledge**  
**Fall, 2002**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**1. Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Justine Noel

Office hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.,

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Location: Fisher 344D

Phone: 370-3518

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes and General Course Description**

By the end of the course, students should be able to a) understand the nature of central epistemological problems, b) compare different schools of thought on how these problems can be solved, c) critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the various epistemological theories studies, and d) have a sense of the relevance of this branch of philosophy to the most general concepts of science and human life.

We will be learning how various classical and contemporary philosophers have approached key epistemological questions; for example, how can we know what is true and what is false? How can we distinguish between reality and appearances? Are we born with some kinds of knowledge or is all knowledge acquired by experience? How should we envision the true nature of the world? How can we justify our belief that other people experience mental events? Are the senses reliable guides to knowledge? What ought we to believe? What, if anything, can I be absolutely certain of? These questions form the core of the philosophical enterprise, and as Louis Pojman writes, “an understanding of their significance promises to make one a more enlightened human being, more aware of the structures of the cognitive dimension of existence.”

**3. Required Materials**

Text: The Theory of Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Readings, Louis P. Pojman, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

#### **4. Course Schedule and Content**

Lectures: Tuesdays (F238) and Thursdays (F334), 11:30-12:20 p.m.

Seminars: Group A: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:20 p.m., Fisher 238

Group B: Thursdays, 12:30-1:20 p.m., Fisher 334

#### **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

##### **Week 1: The Theory of Knowledge**

Sept.3 – Introduction

Sept.5 – Russell, 5

Seminar – Plato, hand-out

##### **Week 2: Skepticism**

Sept.10 – Hume, 39

Sept.12 – Moore, 49

Seminar – QUIZ: Lehrer, 56

##### **Week 3: Perception**

Sept.17 – Berkeley, 88

Sept.19 – Whiteley, 100

Seminar – QUIZ: Stace, 96

##### **Week 4: The Analysis of Knowledge**

Sept.24 – **TEST #1**

Sept.26 – Gettier, 125

Seminar – Video, discussion groups

##### **Week 5: Foundationalism and Coherentism**

Oct.1 – Dancy, 206

Oct.3 – Audi, 174

Seminar – QUIZ: Fumerton, 215

##### **Week 6: Induction**

Oct.8 – Hume, 434

Oct.10 – Russell, 440

Seminar – QUIZ: Will, 443

##### **Week 7: Induction cont.**

Oct.15 – Reichenbach, 451

Oct.17 – Strawson, 455

Seminar – QUIZ: Goodman, 460

**Week 8: Scientific Method**

Oct.22 – Ayer, 468

Oct.24 – Lakatos, 497

Seminar – QUIZ: Feyerabend, 502

**Week 9: Other Minds**

Oct.29 – TEST #2

Oct.31 –Russell, hand out

Seminar - Video, discussion groups

**Week 10: Other Minds cont.**

Nov.5 – Price, hand out

Nov.7 – Malcolm, hand out

Seminar – QUIZ: Levin, hand out

**Week 11: The Ethics of Belief**

Nov.12 – Locke, 510

Nov.14 – Clifford, 515

Seminar – QUIZ: James, 518

**Week 12: Challenges to Contemporary Epistemology**

Nov.19 – Code, 559

Nov.21 – TEST #3

Seminar – Video, discussion groups

**Week 13: Challenges cont.**

Nov.26 – Longino, 571

Nov.28 – Haack, 580

Seminar –QUIZ: Levin, 596

**Week 14: Challenges cont.**

Dec.3 – Rorty, 588

Dec.5 – Review, catch up

Seminar – QUIZ: Popper, 607

**5. Course Requirements:**

- a) 3 essay-question tests (50 minutes long each): 30% (10% each)
- b) 3-4 page paper (typed, double-spaced): 20% (\*note: late papers will receive a zero)
- c) Participation: 10%
- d) Seminar quizzes (10 minutes long each): 10%
- e) Final Examination (held during the exam period, date scheduled by the college): 30%

## 6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

### ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)