

**School of Arts & Science**  
**PHILOSOPHY**

**Phil 203-001 Theory of Knowledge**  
**Fall 2004**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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*Note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for your records.*

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**1. Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor: **Megan Shelstad**
- (b) Office hours: **Monday and Wednesday 10:45 – 11:15 am and 1:30 – 2:00 pm**
- (c) Location: **Young 312**
- (d) Phone: **TBA**
- (e) E-mail: **shelstad@camosun.bc.ca**

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- **accurately summarize** and **evaluate** central problems in epistemology.
- **critically examine** classical and contemporary solutions to these problems.
- make **comparisons** between various philosophical positions and have an overall sense of the history of epistemology.
- take a philosophical position and support that position with good reasons (evidence).
- **explain** the relevance of epistemology to everyday problems concerning beliefs and values, knowledge, justification and ethics.
- **describe** and **critically assess** alternative challenges to contemporary epistemology.

**3. Required Materials**

- (a) Pojman, Louis P. 2003. *The Theory of Knowledge*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Toronto:Wadsworth.
- (b) Weston, Anthony. 2000. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Indianapolis: Hackett. **(RECOMMENDED)**

**4. Course Content and Schedule**

**Mondays (Wilna Thomas 102) and Wednesdays (Fisher 268)**  
**Lectures: 12:30 – 1:20 pm**  
**Seminars: 1:30 – 2:20 pm**

**Reading Schedule (from the class text)**

**Week 1 (Sept. 8): Introduction**

**PART I General introduction**

**Week 2 (Sept. 13, 15): Russell (5 – 8)  
Chisholm (9 – 17)**

**PART IV The analysis of knowledge**

**Week 3 (Sept. 20, 22): Gettier, Feldman (121 – 128)  
Lehrer and Paxson (138 – 142)**

**Week 4 (Sept. 27, 29): Goldman (129 – 138)  
“ (142 – 155)**

**PART III Perception: Our knowledge of the external world**

**Week 5 (Oct. 4, 6): Locke, Berkeley (71 - 95)  
Stace, Whiteley (96 – 107)**

**Week 6 (Oct. 13): Reid, Russell (108 - 120) \*\* THANKSGIVING Monday Oct. 11 \*\***

**Week 7 (Oct. 18, 20): REVIEW and \*\* TEST \*\***

**PART II Skepticism**

**Week 8 (Oct. 25, 27): Descartes (19 - 38) \*\* CHOOSE ESSAY TOPIC \*\***

**Week 9 (Nov. 1, 3): Hume (39 - 48), Lehrer (56 – 62)  
Moore (49 – 55), Malcolm (63 – 70)**

**PART X The ethics of belief**

**Week 10 (Nov. 8, 10): Locke (507 -514)  
Clifford, James (515 – 525)**

**Week 11 (Nov. 15, 17): Meiland (526 - 535)  
Pojman 536 - 556) \*\* ESSAYS DUE: NOV. 22 \*\***

**PART XI Challenges and alternatives to contemporary epistemology**

**Week 12 (Nov. 22, 24): Code, Longino (557 - 579)  
Haack (580 - 587)**

**Week 13 (Nov. 29, Dec. 1): Rorty (588 – 595)  
Levin (596 – 606)**

**Week 14 (Dec. 6, 8): Popper (607 – 614)  
Review and loose ends (last test in exam period)**

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) **Assignments:** 1 Essay: 25% 2500 words (approx. 6 typed pages, double-spaced)

**DUE DATE: MONDAY NOV. 22**

(b) **Tests:** 2 Tests: 50% (25% each)

(c) **Seminar attendance and participation:** 10%

### Policy on missed tests and late papers:

Make-up tests and late papers will be permitted only in cases of illness or personal crisis. A make-up test will not be scheduled or late paper accepted until documentation is provided (i.e. a doctor's note).

## 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)