

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>2/26/24</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Philosophy College Arts and Letters <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>		
Prefix PHI Number 4554	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i> Lab Code	Type of Course <input type="text" value="Lecture"/>	Course Title Knowledge and Reality
Credits <i>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</i> 3	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sat/UnSat <input type="radio"/>	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)</i> This course will examine central issues in epistemology (the philosophical study of knowledge) and metaphysics (the philosophical study of reality). This course will examine philosophical answers to some of the following questions: What is the nature of reality? How do we come to know about reality? What is space and time? What is knowledge and how does it differ from mere opinion? How do we come to gain knowledge? Do we have free will?	
Effective Date <i>(TERM & YEAR)</i> Fall 2024			
Prerequisites, with minimum grade* none	Corequisites none	Registration Controls <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> none	
<i>*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course</i>			
WAC/Gordon Rule Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines .		Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement <i>(Select One Option)</i> None General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines .	
Minimum qualifications to teach course PhD in Philosophy			
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone N. Baima/ nbaima@fau.edu/319-504-2404		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course Baima is member of Honors College Philosophy and approves	
Approved by <i>Nicholas R. Baima</i> Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair <i>Eric Huang</i> College Dean _____ UUPC Chair <i>Korey Sorge</i> Undergraduate Studies Dean <i>Dan Meeroff</i> UFS President _____ Provost _____		Date <u>2/5/2024</u> <u>2/5/2024</u> <u>2/8/24</u> <u>2/26/24</u> <u>2/26/24</u> _____ _____	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Knowledge and Reality

(Sample Syllabus)

Knowledge and Reality, PHI 4554

Boca Raton Campus

T/H 2-3:20

3 credits

Contact Information

Professor

Garrett Mindt

Email: gmindt@fau.edu

Office: SO 279

Office Hours: T/H 3:30-4:30

Course Description

This course will examine central issues in epistemology (the philosophical study of knowledge) and metaphysics (the philosophical study of reality). This course will examine philosophical answers to some of the following questions: What is the nature of reality? How do we come to know about reality? What is space and time? What is knowledge and how does it differ from mere opinion? How do we come to gain knowledge? Do we have free will?

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course will be to gain an understanding and introduction to the topics of Knowledge and Reality. By the end you should have the competency to grapple with contemporary questions about Metaphysics and Epistemology, both methodological and theoretical. As with most courses there are four tangible skills that will be further practiced and developed during the duration of the course.

Argumentation: We will construct and evaluate arguments.

Analytic Writing: We will write clearly about complex ideas.

Interpretation: We will develop charitable interpretations of difficult texts.

Reflection: We will reflect on our own philosophical beliefs.

Required Materials

All essays/articles/readings will be made freely available on Canvas and will be uploaded on the course schedule.

Course Delivery

This will be an in-person course with a bi-weekly lecture/discussion format (W/F). Attendance is required for this course and participation will be required with some in-class activities. I reserve the right to change the format, should the need arise, and will give ample notice should such an accommodation need to be made.

This course will rely on students reading the materials before each scheduled class following the course schedule at the end of this syllabus (posted on Canvas). We'll be discussing the material heavily in the assigned class time and so students should be prepared having read the assigned books & readings with questions or points of discussion ready for class. The topics and readings for the day will be posted on Canvas and students should check that schedule regularly in case any changes are made therein.

Assessments and Grades

Assignments

Class activities, attendance, and participation (20%)

During some class and discussion meetings, we will engage in activities to practice philosophical skills, such as breaking into small groups or to evaluate an argument, etc. Missing days where we peer-review or have in class-activities will result in a penalty for the participation grade (barring emergencies or medical absences).

Reading responses (20%)

For each week of the readings assigned for the course I'll ask for a QQC (quote, questions, comment). What this will mean is that for the reading I want you to bring a quote from the reading, a question it raised for you, and your comment/reflection on that. There will be a more detailed explanation of this assignment in the assignment on Canvas.

First essay (20%)

An analytic essay that answers a specific prompt based on the course materials. Length is 2000 words. This will be to practice analytic writing and argumentation.

Second essay (20%)

An analytic essay that answers one of the distributed prompts based on the course materials. Length is 2000 words.

Final exam (20%)

This will be a take-home final exam for the course, it will consist of short essay responses to questions/prompts related to the course material. This will test your knowledge and understanding of the content of the course. The exam will be distributed the first day of finals week.

Late Assignments

Without advance notice, late work will be excused only for emergencies or medical reasons. Please contact me or if you think there will be any delay in submitting an assignment. Late assignments are penalized 3%. For each additional 24 hours past the deadline, you will lose another 3% on that assignment.

Please alert the TA and myself if you are struggling to finish assignments or the course work. There is little that can be done if I'm only made aware at the end of the semester.

Grading Scheme

Grading Scheme

A	93 – 100%	C	73 – 76.9%
A –	90 – 92.9%	C –	70 – 72.9%
B +	87 – 89.9%	D +	67 – 69.9%
B	83 – 86.9%	D	63 – 66.9%

B –	80 – 82.9%	D –	60 – 62.9%
C+	77 – 79.9%	F	00 – 59.9%

General Course Policies

General Course Policies

Access to Course Materials

The readings will consist of the books assigned to the course as well as readings that the instructor will upload to Canvas

The course materials, including this syllabus, some of the readings, and assignments, will be available on the Canvas website. The instructor will notify the students of any changes to the syllabus as soon as possible, including changes in the schedule of readings, assignments, or meeting locations.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in university-approved activities. Examples of university-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a university-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Classroom Etiquette

It is the responsibility of each student to conduct themselves in a responsible and considerate fashion when discussing the content and topics of the course. Philosophy involves healthy and

robust discussion, but I will not tolerate harassment, belittling, or any behavior that is not conducive to carrying out the objectives of the course. Please be respectful and collegiate with your fellow classmates and instructors.

Disability and Accommodations Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Some of your assignments will be assessed with software that scores their 'originality'. This by itself is meaningless: an assignment might score low on originality because it includes quotes from other papers. This does not constitute plagiarism unless the work fails to attribute the ideas or words of others to their original sources.

Given the increased prevalence of the use of Large Language Models (LLM's) like ChatGPT, I have instituted a strict zero-tolerance policy for the use of such systems for assignments. If it is deemed such a program was used, it will be an automatic failing grade. If you're unsure how a use case would be seen under this policy, please reach out to the professor to ask. Part of the course works on developing analytic writing skills and the use of such programs/systems invalidates this aspect of the course. If I have sufficient evidence that you have plagiarized one of your assignments, that assignment will receive a failing grade. Moreover, you may be subject to further disciplinary action. See the Academic Integrity Policy for more details.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Course Schedule (Tentative/Subject to Change, notification will be given in the event of changes)

Course Schedule

Week/Topic	Readings/Activities	Deadlines/Notes
Week 1	January 9 th – Course Introduction/Syllabus (No readings)	
Course Introduction	January 11 th – What is Knowledge and Reality? (No Readings)	
Week 2	January 16 th – WV Quine “On What There Is”	
Foundations		
Ontology	January 18 th – Rudolph Carnap “Semantics, Empiricism, and Ontology”	
Week 3	January 23 rd – Huw Price “Quining Naturalism”	
Foundations		
Ontology	January 25 th – WV Quine “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”	
Week 4	January 30 th – Saul Kripke “Naming and Necessity” (Excerpts)	
Modality	February 1 st – David Lewis “On the Plurality of Worlds” (Excerpts)	
Week 5	February 6 th – Paul Moser “Introduction” & Robert Shope “Conditions & Analyses of Knowing” Oxford Handbook of Epistemology	
Knowledge	February 8 th – Edmund Gettier “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?”	
Week 6	February 13 th – Alvin Goldman “A Causal Theory of Knowing”	
Is Knowledge JTB?	February 15 th – Timothy Williamson “Knowledge First Epistemology”	
Week 7	February 20 th – Jennifer Nagel “Very Short Introduction: Chapter 5” & John Greco “Justification is Not Internal”	
Internalism vs Externalism	February 22 nd – Richard Feldman “Justification is Internal”	

Week 8	February 27 th – W.K. Clifford, “The Ethics of Belief” February 29 th – William James, “The Will to Believe” Essay 1 Due
Week 9	March 5 th – No Class
Spring Break	March 7 th – No Class
Week 10	March 12 th – Plato “Parmenides” Zeno’s Paradox
Space and Time	March 14 th – Barry Dainton “Time and Space” (Excerpts)
Week 11	March 19 th – McTaggart “The Unreality of Time”
Time Travel	March 21 st – David Lewis “The Paradoxes of Time Travel”
Week 12	March 26 th – Peter van Inwagen “The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism”
Free Will	March 28 th – Jenann Ismael “Causation, Free Will, and Naturalism”
Week 13	April 2 nd – Harry Frankfurt “Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility”
Free Will	April 4 th – Derk Pereboom “Determinism al Dente”
Week 14	April 9 th – Rene Descartes “Meditations” Books II & VI
Mind-Body Problem	April 11 th – David Chalmers “Consciousness and it’s Place in Nature”
Week 15	April 16 th – TBD
Final's	April 18 th – TBD, Essay 2 Due
Review Week	
Week 16	April 27 th - May 3 rd
Finals Week	