**PHI 3360 HONORS THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE**

**Professor: Ashley Kennedy
Office: HC 145
Email: kennedya@fau.edu**

**Course description**

This course is designed to acquaint you with some problems, views, and arguments in the study of contemporary epistemology. Special attention will be given to the value of knowledge, the analysis of knowledge, skepticism, and various (potential) ways of obtaining knowledge. In this course we will attempt to answer the questions: “What, if anything, do we know?” and “How do we know it?”

**Note of Honors Distinction:**

This is an Honors course and as such differs substantially from non-Honors courses. In this course you will not only learn philosophical principles, but also be expected to produce substantive work that reflects interdisciplinarity among academic fields. Further, you will be required to read primary research and to combine creative and critical thinking with real world engagement.  Please be advised that the writing component of the course is demanding. It is not easy to write philosophy, but in this class you will begin to learn to do so. This, in turn, will help to prepare you for further analytical writing in upper-division courses, and for work on the **Honors Thesis.**

**Course Evaluation:**

4 papers, 1,000 words each and one paper rewrite……….………………….. 60%

Final exam (in class essay)……………………………………………………20%

Participation………………………………….………………………………..20%

In this class you will be required to write four analytical papers of approximately 1,000 words each. Written descriptions of the assignment prompt will be posted on BlackBoard one week before each paper is due. You will be asked both to describe a philosophical view and to argue for one of your own. I will provide substantial comments on all your papers, both in the form of marginalia and in an endnote.Successful papers will be those that fully articulate and support a well-thought out argument expressed in a thesis, provide a clear organizational framework, demonstrate effective use of carefully chosen textual support, and communicate ideas in clearly written, organized prose that is free of error.

**How You’ll Get Your Grades:**

Papers:

I will grade your papers based on:

1. Vocabulary
2. Sentence mechanics
3. Topic maintenance
4. Paragraph formulation
5. Cogency, argument and the degree to which you engage with these texts

Participation:

1. I expect you to read the assigned text, read it again, and come to class prepared to discuss it.
2. I will grade you based on the frequence and quality of your participation in the class discussion. The responsibility lies with you to show me and your peers that you have read and are dealing intelligently with these assigned readings. If you don’t feel you understand the text, that’s okay. But I will mark down students who do not have their assigned readings with them in class, marked with their reading notes, and who are unprepared to discuss them in class.

**Required text:**

1. *What is This Thing Called Knowledge?*, by Duncan Pritchard. Routledge 2006.

**Other readings:**

We will also read several primary source articles (available on Blackboard) as well as excerpts from the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (SEP) available from: plato.stanford.edu

**WAC credit**

* This course fulfills a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) requirement. It is writing intensive. You will have to write 4 papers as well as an in class essay exam. In addition, you will do a thorough revision of one paper in consultation with me for an additional grade. In order to receive credit for this WAC requirement you must receive a grade of “C” or better in this course. *If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide WAC assessment program, you will be required to access the online assessment server, complete the consent form and survey, and submit electronically a first and final draft of your chosen paper.* Further, this course may serve as one of the two “Gordon Rule” classes at the 2000-4000 level that must be taken after ENC 1101 and 1102 or their equivalents.

**Students enrolled in this course** agree to abide by the[**Honors College Honor Code**](http://www.fau.edu/honors/academics_honor_code.php)  and the [**FAU Code of Academic Integrity**](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf)**:** please review these documents.

**Attendance policy**: You are allowed two unexcused absences, no questions asked. After that, your class exercises grade will be affected.

**Computer policy**: the use of laptops in class is reserved for those students with sufficient documentation from the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center.

**Cellphone policy**: **NO CELLPHONES.** If you use your phone in class, your final grade will be lowered.

**Late Work Policy:** I do not accept late papers, but I will accept them via email if you cannot make it to class that day.

**Students with Disabilities**: *In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 117 (772-873-3441) – and follow all OSD procedures.*

**Course Schedule**

1. Introduction/Syllabus/**How to write a philosophy paper**

**What is Knowledge?**

2. Chapter 1 (Pritchard), “The Analysis of Knowledge,” Sections 1.1-1.2 (SEP)

3. “What’s Wrong with Moore’s Argument,” Pryor (on Blackboard)

“Knowledge is Merely True Belief,” Sartwell (on Blackboard)

**Why Care about Knowledge?**

4. Chapter 2 (Pritchard), “Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Value,” Sections 2 and 6 (SEP)

**In class discussion of paper writing: How to find a topic? How to write a thesis?**

5. “Why Do We Value Knowledge?” **Paper 1 topic assigned**

6. Jones (on Blackboard)

**Defining Knowledge**

7. Chapter 3 (Pritchard) **Paper #1 due**

8. “The Problem of the Criterion,” Chisholm (on Blackboard)

**The Structure of Knowledge**

9. Chapter 4 (Pritchard), “Skepticism,” Section 7 (SEP)

**In class review of Paper 1 Draft. How to revise a philosophy paper.**  **Office Hour conferences with individual students re paper revision.**

10. “Coherentism” (SEP)

11. “Foundationalism” (SEP)

**Skepticism**

12. Chapter 12 (Pritchard) **Paper #1 Revision due**

13. “The Matrix” (will watch in class)

**Skepticism**

14. Chapter 13, p. 137-145 (Pritchard), “Brains in a Vat,” Sections, 1-3 and section entitled “Mooreanism” (SEP) **Paper #2 topic assigned**

15. “The Problem of the External World,” Stroud, p. 1-4 and 8-10 (on Blackboard); **In class discussion of Paper 2. Writing as a process, and how to structure an argument.**

**Contextualism**

16. Chapter 13, p. 145-150 **Paper #2 due**

17. “Contextualism and Knowledge Attributions,” DeRose (on Blackboard)

**Truth Realism/Antirealism**

18. Chapter 14 (Pritchard), “Realism” intro only, (SEP) **Paper #3 topic assigned**

19. “Scientific Realism,” Sections 1-3, “Fear of Knowledge,” Chapter 1, Boghossian (on Blackboard); **In-class discussion of Paper 3, process and progress.**

**Perception**

20. Chapter 7 (Pritchard) **Paper #3 Due**

**Testimony and Memory**

21. Chapter 8 (Pritchard) **Paper #4 topic assigned**

22. “Remembering,” Martin and Deutsch, sections I-IV (on Blackboard)

**A Priority and Inference**

23. Chapter 9 (Pritchard) **Paper #4 Due**

24. In Defense of Pure Reason, sections 1.1-1.4, Bonjour (on Blackboard)

**The Problem of Induction**

25. Chapter 10 (Pritchard)

26. “Inductive Knowledge,” Bird (on Blackboard)

**Exam**

27. Exam review

28. Final exam