

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2019-20**

Philosophy 3501F: Epistemology

Fall Term 2019 Tuesday, 12:30-2:30; Thursday, 12:30-1:30 UCC 65	Instructor: Prof. Robert DiSalle Office Hours: Thursday, 1:30-2:30 (and by appointment) Stevenson Hall 4141 email: rdisalle@uwo.ca
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Epistemology considers questions about knowledge: what it is to have knowledge, as opposed to mere opinion or conjecture, and how we can justify our claims to knowledge. For this reason, it has played a crucial part in the history of the other main branches of philosophy, metaphysics and ethics, by questioning our claims to knowledge about what there is, and how we ought to act. For the same reason, epistemological inquiry has played a part in the history of science and mathematics, and every intellectual field in which there is a need to examine the grounds of our beliefs.

This course considers some of the most important problems in the theory of knowledge, from a selection of contemporary viewpoints as well as some historical background. In this way we will gain some insight into the origins, motivations, and evolution of these problems as well as their implications for contemporary thought. Topics will include justification of beliefs, the relation between sense and reason, scepticism and certainty, foundationalism and coherentism, connections between knowledge and language, deductive and non-deductive inference, epistemological naturalism, and the role of the a priori in our common sense and scientific knowledge. Prerequisite: Philosophy 2500F/G.

TEXTS

Text: Sosa et al, eds. *Epistemology: An Anthology* (Blackwell).
(Available at UWO Bookstore; supplementary readings will be posted on OWL.)

Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.
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