

PHIL A165: THE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/02/2020
Top Code	150900 - Philosophy
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3A Theory (OC1)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3B Humanities (OSC2)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 3B Humanities (3B)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 3B Humanities (3B)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU C2 Humanities (C2)

Course Description

A critical survey of theories of truth, knowledge and belief, perception, and related problems. An evaluation of the limits and extent of human reasoning. The survey includes the mathematic-deductive method, the problem of induction, and an assessment of the conditions of the possibility of experience. Assess how evidence is assembled, interpreted and evaluated, and addresses what counts as a good reason to believe, i.e. the problems of justifying evidence. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Present a critical philosophical analysis of a selected topic in epistemology that articulates and critically evaluates the claims made.

Course Objectives

- 1. Identify the fundamental concepts and problems which determine the limits and/or extent of human knowledge.
- 2. Analyze different kinds of knowledge, i.e. a priori, a posteriori. Analyze issues arising regarding propositional knowledge.
- 3. Evaluate the sources of knowledge and their use in the relevant philosophical positions of rationalism, empiricism and pragmatism.
- 4. Evaluate unique problems regarding knowledge of persons.
- 5. Describe and evaluate the problem of other minds.
- 6. Identify and evaluate problems in belief, particularly with respect to propositional and dispositional issues.

- 7. Analyze the problem of justified true belief in all relevant theories.
- 8. Identify and analyze the role of evidence in the problems of knowledge.
- 9. Identify and analyze the conditions for determining what constitutes evidence, its certainty, probability.
- 10. Evaluate the problems of truth and justification.
- 11. 11. Compare and contrast the three major positions or schools of thought (rationalism, empiricism, pragmatism) with respect to: a. Sources of knowledge b. Concept acquisition c. Evidence or data d. Justification
- 12. 12. In Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, analyze the following: a. Substance b. Mind or Self c. Form and Meaning d. Percept/Concept e. Doctrine of Innate Ideas f. Theory of Ideas
- 13. Analyze the problems of general representation and abstract ideas.
- 14. Analyze the problems of phenomenalism with respect to representation and justification.
- 15. Describe and evaluate the problem of synthetic a priori judgment
- 16. Evaluate the analytic/synthetic distinction in both the historical theorists (particularly Hume and Kant) and the contemporary views of Quine.

Lecture Content

I. Fundamental Concepts and Problems A. Origins of Knowledge: Sensation, Reason B. Scope or Limits and Extent of Knowledge C. Role of the Learned or Expert D. Kinds of Knowledge and Their Differences 1. A Priori Knowledge 2. Empirical or a Posteriori Knowledge 3. Propositional Knowledge or Knowledge by Description 4. Knowledge by Acquaintance 5. Knowledge by Doing or by Performance 6. Knowledge of Persons II. Problems in Belief A. Propositional B. Explanatory C. Occurrent or Standing and Established Beliefs D. Dispositional E. Distinction in Type/Token III. Truth, Justification, and Evidence A. Belief, Justified Belief, Justified True Belief B. Historical and Contemporary Problems C. Truth and Truth Conditions 1. Correspondence Theory of Truth 2. Coherence Theory of Truth IV. Plato and the Rationalist School A. Objections to Sense Perception as the Origin of Knowledge ; B. Theory of the Forms (in The Republic, The Meno, The Phaedo, and The Theaetetus) C. Other dialogues and critical literature as appropriate D. Theory of Innate Ideas, in all appropriate dialogues V. Aristotle and the Empiricist School, in lecture, and readings as appropriate A. Aristotle s Objections to Plato s Theory of the Forms B. Basis of the Empiricist Argument C. Doctrines of the Categories: Substance 1. Primary Substance 2. Secondary Substance 3. nbsp; D. Essences E. Causation, Doctrine of Perception, and the Passive Aspects of Mind F. Doctrine of Intellection and the Active Aspects of Mind VI. Descartes and Problems in Skepticism and Certainty A. Objections to Sense Perception 1. Lunatic and Dreamer: First and Second Skeptical Arguments 2. Method of Doubt and Suspension of Judgment B. Evil Genius Hypothesis and Reasoning C. Proof of the Certainty of the Idea of the Self D. Proof of the Certainty of the Idea of God 1. Influence of Aristotle and Plato 2. Formal and Material Truths Distinguished 3. Formal and Objective Reality Distinguished 4. Substance, Modes, Attributes 5. Types of Ideas Distinguished 6. Foundation of the Idea of God, and 7. Justification of the Idealist Argument for Objective Evidence E. Source of Error F. Proof of the External World G. Problems With the Cogito Argument H. Mind/Body Problem ize: 10px; VII. Locke and British Empirical Thought A. Opposition to the Doctrine of Innate Ideas B. Doctrine of Mental and Material Substance C. Theory of Ideas 1. Ideas of Sensation 2. Ideas

of Reflection 3. Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Qualities Distinguished
 D. Newtonian Framework E. Locke's Definition of Knowledge and Its
 Different Kinds F. Locke on Evidence, Demonstration, and Proof 1.
 Intuitive 2. Demonstrative 3. Probable G. Locke on Causation and the Role
 of the External World in Epistemology H. Locke on Justification and Truth
 I. Locke on General and Abstract Ideas VIII. Berkeley and British Empirical
 Thought A. Berkeley on General and Abstract Ideas B. "Esse is percipi"
 and the Idealist in Berkeley C. Significance of the Immediately Perceived
 D. Berkeley on Locke's Theory of Substance E. Berkeley on Primary and
 Secondary Qualities F. Berkeley's Theory of Mind G. Of God and
 Justification H. Reaction to the Newtonian Framework I. Types of Ideas;
 Ideas Distinguished from Minds IX. Hume and British Empirical Thought
 A. Enlightened Skeptic B. Philosopher of Human Nature C. Impressions/
 Ideas Distinction D. Force and Vivacity Criteria E. Hume on Abstract Ideas
 F. Justification 1. Relations of Ideas 2. p; Matters of Fact G. On Causation,
 Constant Conjunction and Experimental Inference H. On Abstract Ideas
 and General Representation X. Kant and Critical Theory A. Analytic a
 Priori, Synthetic a Posteriori Judgments Distinguished B. Reaction to
 Hume on Science C. On the Proof of Synthetic a Priori Judgments D. On
 Mind 1. The Categories 2. The Pure Forms of Intuition E. On Innate Ideas
 p; F. On Causation and the External World G. Phenomenal/Noumenal
 Distinguished, and the Noumenal as a Limit Notion XI. Introduction to
 Contemporary Issues and Pragmatism A. Historical Figures 1. William
 James: Knowing as a Pragmatic Process 2. John Dewey and Regulative
 Principles a Choices between "operations performed" and "properties
 of objects" b. Experimental Inference, Interpreted Phenomena, and
 the Mistake of Independent Entities c. Operational definition ; d. On
 Justification and Difference 3. Clarence Irving Lewis and the Myth of the
 Given XII. Other Theorists at the Discretion of the Instructor: Bertrand
 Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein, W.V. Quine, Donald Davidson, Richard
 Feldman, Alvin Goldman, Roderick Chisholm, Ernest Sosa, Hilary Putnam
 It is suggested that Edmund Gettier be read in conjunction with Plato's
 problem of justified true belief.

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)

Instructional Techniques

1. Lecture. 2. Discussion of the problems of theory of knowledge
 and of the mind. 3. Verbal and written analysis of student
 questions, the latter by way of chalkboard/overhead. 4. Oral
 and written projects undertaken by the students, both individually and
 collectively, and to which the instructor will provide oral and written
 critique. 5. Examinations (objective and essay). 6.
 Auxiliary handout materials on course themes.

Reading Assignments

Students will spend on average 2-3 hours per week on assigned readings.

Writing Assignments

Students will spend on average 2 hours per week on: Brief topical papers,
 assigned in conjunction with oral analysis Written analyzes addressing
 the structure of philosophical Comparative and critical analysis using
 more than one view or author

Out-of-class Assignments

Students will spend on average 2 hours per week on: Preparation of
 analyses and critiques of readings. Formal essays

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

1. Brief topical papers, assigned in conjunction with oral analysis.
2. Written analyzes addressing the structure of philosophical arguments.
 3. Comparative and critical analysis using more than one view or author.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

1. Brief topical papers, assigned in conjunction with oral analysis.
2. Written analyzes addressing the structure of philosophical arguments.
 3. Adequate research and resource materials from the library used to supplement assigned texts and materials.
 4. Comparative and critical analysis using more than one view or author.

Eligible Disciplines

Philosophy: Master's degree in philosophy OR bachelor's degree in
 philosophy AND master's degree in humanities or religious studies, OR
 the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Moser, P., Van der Nat, A.. Human Knowledge: Classical and
 Contemporary Approaches, ed. Oxford University Press, 2003 Rationale: .
2. Required Audi, R.. Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to
 the Theory of Knowledge, ed. Chicago: Routledge, 2012 Rationale: . 3.
 Required Plato. Theaetetus, ed. Cambridge, 2006 Rationale: .