

Module Title:	Epistemology
Module Code:	501 PEPI
Level:	5
Credit rating:	20 credits
Duration:	200 hours
Teaching hours:	40
Academic Responsibility:	Christiano Turbil MA

Module aims:

- to develop an understanding of the complexities of human knowing
- to encourage philosophical reflection upon how it is we can be said to know anything
- to enable an assessment of the relationship between knowledge and truth
- to question contemporary stances concerning the status of human knowledge

Module Content

This module concentrates on the problem of human knowledge and understanding. It examines in greater detail questions concerning Epistemology raised in the Introduction to Philosophy.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should be able to

1. demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of Epistemology and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of that philosophy and its relevance and importance today
2. confidently read, interpret and elucidate primary epistemological texts
3. think and work creatively and intellectually and be stimulated in their search for useful knowledge and insight into the endeavours of Epistemology and its practical applications.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through a variety of teaching methods: delivered lectures, question/discussion, power point presentation, philosophical text, response and discussion, problem setting and possible solutions from students, presentations by students (with feedback from peers), at least one of the presentations will involve the students working in groups.

Assessment:

The module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays.

Indicative Essay Titles

1. What do Gettier cases show about the traditional tripartite definition of knowledge?
2. If the sceptic is absolute that nothing can be known except that nothing can be known, how far is his/her position self-contradictory?
3. "If I know something, then I can't be wrong about it." If this claim is true, what implications does it have for scepticism?
4. Can the coherence theorist plausibly account for an empirical contribution to the content of one's beliefs?

Illustrative Bibliography

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- DeRose K and T. Warfield, ed., *Skepticism* (Oxford UP, 1999).
- Gettier, E., "Is justified true belief knowledge?", *Analysis* 23, (6), pp.121-3 (1963)
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- Kornblith, H.ed., *Epistemology: Internalism and Externalism* (Blackwell Publishers, 2001).
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- Moser, P., & Vander, N. A., *Human Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Approaches*, Oxford, 1987
- Pojman, L., *Theory of Knowledge: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, 3rd ed. (Wadsworth, 2003).
- Sosa, J. & Kim, E. eds., *Epistemology: An Anthology* (Blackwell Publishers, 2000).
- William, P. A., "Two Types of Foundationalism," *Journal of Philosophy* 73 (1976): 165-185.
- _____ "Varieties of Privileged Access," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 8 (1971): 223-241.
- _____ "What's Wrong with Immediate Knowledge?" *Synthese* 55 (1983): 73-96.