

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-2012

Philosophy 3501F (001): EPISTEMOLOGY
Formerly Philosophy 326F/G

Tuesdays — 2:30-3:30pm	Instructor: Sheldon Chow
Thursdays — 2:30-4:30pm	Contact email: schow55@uwo.ca
UCC 66	Office: TBA
	Office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to be a selective survey of contemporary epistemology. We will begin with a brief overview of some of the classical issues in epistemology, including the analysis of knowledge, justification, skepticism, relativism, and epistemology in science. We will then consider a number of topics in contemporary epistemology in more detail. We will look at epistemic closure, naturalized epistemology, attempts to justify deduction and induction, the value of knowledge, contextualist approaches to epistemology, evolutionary approaches to epistemology, as well as some challenges from psychology for epistemology.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with the questions, theories and arguments of contemporary epistemology. The course also aims to give students training and practice in the basic skills of philosophy, including analyzing and evaluating arguments, contributing to fruitful exploratory discussions and debates with their peers employing the tools of philosophical thought, and constructing clear and cogent arguments.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Four short response papers (500-700 words; 5% each)	20%
Prospectus	20%
Term paper	45%
Participation	15%

TEXTS

1. Richard Feldman. *Epistemology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.
2. Ernest Sosa, Jaegwon Kim, Jeremy Fantl, and Matthew McGrath (eds.). *Epistemology: An Anthology*, 2nd edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
3. Selected readings to be posted online.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.