Philosophy Course Number: PHIL 3501F
Title: Epistemology

DESCRIPTION
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 part in the history of the other main branches of philosophy, metaphysics and ethics, examining the justification for 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 classical and contemporary viewpoints. 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 to be considered include justification of beliefs, scepticism and certainty, foundationalism and coherentism, connections between knowledge and language, deductive and non-deductive inference, naturalized epistemology, testimonial knowledge, epistemic injustice, misinformation and how false beliefs are spread.