

# Introduction to Theory of Knowledge

Phil 2500F (Section 001), University of Western Ontario. Undergraduate Course. (Summer evening)

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## **Information:**

Instructor: Jon P. Marsh <jmarsh26@uwo.ca>. “State to which we aspire” (Zagzebski, 1996: 1).

But what is knowledge? And what makes it so special? These will be our guiding questions. Although both questions go back to Plato, emphasis will be placed on early modern and contemporary answers. A third question we will consider is whether we have any knowledge. This will take us to the problem of skepticism.

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Teaching methods will involve lectures, on some days, and more dialogue-oriented sessions, on others. We will also benefit from occasional learning workshops, for example, on how to write a philosophy paper. Finally, we will watch video clips, such as excerpts from the (1999), when we discuss skepticism.

## **Text:**

Zagzebski, Linda. 2009. Wadsworth. First Edition. ISBN-13: 978-0534252342 (**required**).  
Publisher’s listed price: 14.25 USD.

N.B. Any supplementary readings will be made available on OWL, where you will also find a reading schedule.

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## **Requirements:**

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| • Attendance/participation           | 15%                                 |
| • Classroom exercise grade           | 15%                                 |
| • Précis and short reflection pieces | 5% (1 page, or less, double-spaced) |
| • Paper                              | 30% (Due 7/18)                      |
| • Exam                               | 35 % (Date: TBA)                    |
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## **Outcomes:**

By the time we are finished, you will have achieved a basic understanding of the core questions, controversies and positions within the philosophy of knowledge, as it has been practiced in the Western intellectual tradition. You will also have greatly improved your capacity to clearly and intelligently present and defend your own thoughts in this domain.

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## **Evaluation/Explanation of Grades:**

All assignments will be accompanied with clear directions. Students will be evaluated in accordance with how well they follow

