

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-2017

Philosophy 2500G Introduction to Theory of Knowledge

Winter Term 2017 W 11:30-1:30, F 11:30-12:30 TC 3102	Instructor: Prof. Gillian Barker Stevenson H# 2136 661-2111 x87747 gbarker5@uwo.ca
------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to epistemology or theory of knowledge. The course will focus on the core questions of epistemology: What is knowledge? What, if anything, do we know? How do we know it? The specific topics include the nature of perception, belief, justification and truth; the sources of knowledge; skeptical questions concerning the extent of our knowledge and the role of social context as reflected in debates about relativism, social construction, and feminist epistemology. In the first half of the course we will explore the history of epistemological thought in Western philosophy, from its roots in Ancient philosophical thought through the Early Modern debates between Rationalists and Empiricists and responses to these, and more recent American Pragmatism and Logical Positivism. In the second half, we will turn to the contemporary scene, looking at central epistemological debates from the twentieth century to the present with a focus on debates about the nature of knowledge (a topic of renewed controversy!), naturalized epistemology, theories of truth, and whether justification depends on factors internal or external to the mind of the knower.

TEXTS

Our main source of readings will be Human Knowledge: Classical & Contemporary Approaches edited by Paul K. Moser and Arnold Van der Nat, and An Introduction to Epistemology by Jack Scrumley III. A few additional readings will be supplied as we go along

OBJECTIVES

This course has three es

