

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Theory of Knowledge

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

2500F 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Epistemology refers to the philosophical study of the concept of “knowledge”. By engaging with both classic and contemporary readings on theories of knowledge, we will explore questions such as the following: What is knowledge? What does it mean to know something rather than just believe it? In what ways can knowledge claims be justified? We will also consider how it is that knowledge production is a social/relational endeavor. For example, we will ask, in what ways is knowledge produced collectively? Is science objective? In what ways does subjectivity and social position impact what one can know? Who is likely to be trusted as a knower? What’s up with filter bubbles, echo chambers, and conspiracy theories? One might ask why knowledge itself is an important concept to study. Our knowledge and beliefs play a central role in what kinds of decisions we make, what actions we take, what sources of information we trust, who we trust, how we experience the world, and how we understand ourselves and others. Reflecting on knowledge will empower students to think critically about knowledge claims and the information they encounter in the world.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- 1) Gained the ability to identify, interpret, and evaluate philosophical arguments
- 2) Familiarity with the core concepts and central debates in epistemology and social epistemology
- 3) Developed the skills needed to discuss these concepts and debates thoughtfully with others
- 4) Gained the skills needed to articulate and revise their own positions in these debates
- 5) Developed the ability to reflect on and analyze how knowledge claims function in their own lives and in the media
- 6) The ability to develop a thesis statement, argument, and write a philosophical essay

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Course readings will be made available on Brightspace. No textbook purchases are necessary.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Reading Response 1		5
Reading Response 2		5
Reading Response 3		5
Reading Response 4		5
Theory Summary		15
Final Essay		30
Final Exam		20
Participation		15

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.