

PHIL 120: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY
University of the Fraser Valley
Winter 2019

Instructor:	Dr. Carl Hildebrand
Instructor's Email:	carl.hildebrand@ufv.ca
Time and Location:	W 14:30 – 17:20 PM (ABD 315)
Office Hours and Location:	R 14:00 – 17:00 (ABD 3010)

TEXTS

Schick, Jr., Theodore and Lewis Vaughn. *Doing Philosophy: An Introduction Through Thought Experiments 5th Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

Other material that will be accessible online or otherwise made available for that class.

* It is your responsibility to make sure that you are able to access all of these readings and that you read them in advance of the class in which they will be covered.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours per week in a combination of lecture, in class group exercise, and discussion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate some of the central themes of Western metaphysics and epistemology.
- Explain fundamental positions on key issues in metaphysics and epistemology.
- Apply the methods of philosophical analysis and argumentation to the evaluation of these positions.
- Respond critically and coherently to arguments arising from these issues.
- Explain how such philosophical positions underlie and influence ideas and developments in other disciplines and in everyday life.

EVALUATION

Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes (5 x 2%)	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

GRADING PROFILE

A+	90-100%	C+	67-69%
A	85-89%	C	63-66%
A-	80-84%	C-	60-62%
B+	77-79%	D	50-59%
B	73-76%	F	0-49%
B-	70-72%		

TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

* All section or page numbers below refer to the main text for this course: Schick, Jr., Theodore and Lewis Vaughn. *Doing Philosophy: An Introduction Through Thought Experiments 5th Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013. Other material listed will be accessible online or otherwise made available for that class.

** Further reading will be assigned, and class announcements take precedence over the tentative schedule listed below. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you learn of anything (e.g. announcements) you may have missed.

Week 1: Introduction to Course and Philosophical Method

Section 1.1 (pp. 1-26)

Week 2: Knowledge and Skepticism

Section 1.3 (pp. 44-54)

Section 7.1 (pp. 543-567)

René Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation I" (pp. 592-594)

Bertrand Russell, "On Induction" (pp. 595-598)

Week 3: Knowledge and Skepticism contd.

**Quiz 1*

Section 7.3 (pp. 582-589)

Edmund Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (online)

Ernest Sosa, "Virtue Perspectivism" (pp. 599-600)

Week 4: Mind and Body

Section 2.1-2.2 (pp. 67-114)

René Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation II" (155-157)

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* (online)

Week 5: Mind and Body contd.

**Quiz 2*

Section 2.4 (pp. 135-143)

David Armstrong, "The Mind-Brain Identity Theory" (pp. 158-163)

Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" (online)

Week 6: The Existence of God and the Problem of Evil

Section 6.1 (pp. 439-479)

St. Thomas Aquinas, "The Five Ways" (pp. 513-514)

Richard Swinburne, "Natural Theology" (pp. 515-519)

Week 7: The Existence of God and the Problem of Evil contd.

*Quiz 3

Section 6.2 (pp. 482-496)

David Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion" (pp. 520-524)

Week 8:

Midterm

Week 9: Free Will and Determinism

Section 3.1-3.2 (pp. 173-214)

Richard Dawkins, "Let's All Stop Beating Basil's Car" (pp. 228-229)

W.T. Stace, "The Problem of Free Will" (pp. 230-234)

Week 10: Free Will and Determinism contd.

*Quiz 4

Section 3.3 (pp. 216-226)

Alfred Mele, *Free: Why Science Hasn't Disproved Free Will* (online)

Week 11: Ethics and Metaethics

Section 5.1-5.2 (pp. 317-360)

J.L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (online)

Paul Boghossian, "The Maze of Moral Relativism" (online)

Week 12: Ethics and Metaethics contd.

*Quiz 5

Section 5.3-5.4 (pp. 363-407)

Jeremy Bentham, "Of the Principle of Utility" (415-417)

Immanuel Kant, "Good Will, Duty, and the Categorical Imperative" (pp. 418-421)

Martha Nussbaum, "Non-Relative Virtues" (pp. 422-426)

Week 13: Course Review and Exam Preparation

*Term Paper Due

Summary and review of course contents; preparation for final exam

Note:

It is the responsibility of the student to keep abreast of the readings (that is the point of the syllabus) and, if absent, to secure class notes from another student. These materials are not easy to read and, therefore, you must leave ample time for the task. The committed student will have read the assigned material (more than once) before the class in which it is to be discussed and will reread the assigned readings immediately after the class discussion. As well, a committed student will ensure that their essays or other homework assignments are begun well before the due date. A good essay will require, at a minimum, 4-6 hours to produce an outline and first draft, and about an equal amount of time to adequately revise and produce the final version to be submitted. Essay topics are distributed well in advance of the due date for this reason.

POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

University of the Fraser Valley has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. Copies of these and other policies are distributed to all students during the registration process and are also available in the University Calendar and in the Library.

Following are some specific items I wish to draw to your attention:

Respect in the Classroom:

I strive to create an environment of mutual respect for all participants in the classroom so they can feel comfortable contributing to the class discussions and so on. The standard rules of courtesy apply here, but this is one I insist upon: *all cell phones are to be set vibrate and left alone while in the classroom. No exceptions!*

Academic Misconduct:

As stated in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, 70, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, improper access to examination materials, falsification or unauthorized modification of an academic document/record, resubmission of work, improper research practices, obstruction of the academic activities of another, and aiding and abetting. For additional information on academic misconduct, please see: Academic Integrity and the Library.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism is the deliberate presentation or submission of the research, work, ideas, illustrations or diagrams of others as one's own without citation or credit. Cheating includes the use of unauthorized aids, assistance or materials in the preparation of assignments or in examinations. During examinations, it is considered cheating to communicate with others to obtain information, to copy from the work of others, or to deliberately expose or convey information to others. The resubmission of one's own work for which credit has already been granted in another course, without the instructor's permission, is also cheating. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a grade of zero on the examination or assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension from the university, or expulsion from the university.

Non-Academic Misconduct:

UFV Policy 204 states, "Students are required to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner, consistent with the University mission, policies, and regulations and in compliance with federal, provincial, and municipal laws. Students will be held accountable for their actions whether acting alone or in a group."

Pre-requisites:

UFV Policy 84 states that the minimum grade required for a prerequisite course is C- unless another grade is stated.

Student Attendance Policy:

UFV Policy 62 states that instructors may withdraw students who do not attend the first class and penalize lack of regular attendance.

Audit Policy:

As outlined in UFV Policy 108, a student intending to audit a course must do so before 30% of the course is complete. Please see "Important Dates" to determine this date.

Missed Assignments:

There is no provision for make-up assignments. Thus, students lose the portion of the grade associated with any missed work unless prior arrangements have been made with me.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments are not accepted except at the instructor's discretion in cases of illness or bereavement. Documentation will be required.

"I" Grade:

Not normally given.

Withdrawal:

According to Policy 81, students may choose to withdraw from a course without penalty before completing 60% of the course. Students withdrawing before they have completed 30% of the course will not receive a

“W” on their transcript; students withdrawing after completing 31% to 60% of the course will receive a “W” on their transcript. A “W” has no academic penalty and is not counted in the student’s GPA. After 60% of the course has been completed, students must apply for Late Withdrawal. Please be aware of semester deadlines for withdrawal.

Late Withdrawal:

UFV Policy 81 stipulates that students needing to withdraw from a course after they have completed 60% of the course require permission to do so. Such requests are considered based on medical or compassionate grounds and must be submitted within 4 months of the end of the course (unless a rationale can be provided re: extending the deadline). Students who complete the majority of their coursework and/or completed the final exam or final assignment will not be permitted late withdrawal. Please see on-line for steps required for late withdrawal requests.

Class Participation:

The grade for class participation is based on both the frequency and the quality of the student’s comments, questions and observations, with the emphasis on quality. The quality is determined by, among other things, the relevance, insight and clarity of remarks. Lack of regular attendance will negatively impact this grade.

English Usage:

Proper English usage is essential to the enterprise of presenting and defending one’s ideas; if the instructor cannot understand what the student is trying to say, it is impossible to evaluate the student’s work. Thus, any submitted work that is seriously grammatically flawed will be returned unmarked, and the student will be required to resubmit the work for evaluation with a penalty of five points. This offer will not apply to final term essays or assignments, which will be given a mark of zero. If it is anticipated that there will be problems meeting this requirement, it is incumbent on the student to seek help from, for example, the *Student Success Centre* on campus.

Final Exams:

Final exams are scheduled by the institution during the pre-determined final exam period. Students must be available for the entire exam period and should not make travel or other plans which conflict with this schedule. As stated in UFV Policy 46, “Instructors are entitled to require that students... take all examinations at the times scheduled.”

Final Grade Appeals:

UFV Policy 217 outlines the appeal process for final grades. Please be aware that all appeals must be made within 14 days of the final grade becoming available.

For a full list of UFV policies, including those listed above, please refer to the University Secretariat website: <http://www.ufv.ca/secretariat/policies/>

Additional Information for UFV Students:

- **Priority Access for Student Services (PASS):** The UFV Priority Access to Student Supports (PASS) program connects students to the supports and resources that may help them to increase their chance of success. Such assistance may include putting students in touch with an academic advisor, financial aid, a counsellor or another resource. If your instructor is concerned about your progress, he/she may refer you to PASS. The referral is treated confidentially and is sent because your instructor cares about your progress and success in this course. Your response to PASS is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish your instructor to make a referral to PASS on your behalf, please let them know by email. www.ufv.ca/studentsservices/PASS
- **A Message to Students from the Office of Financial Aid and Awards:** Did you know that last year, the University of the Fraser Valley awarded more than \$1,125,000 in Student Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries? Each year more than a thousand students receive financial support through the University; you can find out more about awards, and how to apply by visiting us at <http://www.ufv.ca/fineaid/>.

Office Consultation:

My official office hours will be at the top of the first page of this outline. However, you can consider me to be available to help you whenever I am on campus. This means you can feel free to visit me at my office at any time or approach me at any time and any place. If I am busy or for some reason unable to help you at that moment, we will schedule a time that is convenient for both of us. I am also available by email.