

## Epistemology (2020 Spring)

Instructor: 李國揚

Email: [kokyonglee.mu@gmail.com](mailto:kokyonglee.mu@gmail.com)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

### Course Description:

This course will cover both the traditional and contemporary issues in epistemology, including the traditional analysis of knowledge, the Gettier problem, evidentialist theories of knowledge and justification, nonevidentialist theories of knowledge and justification, skepticism, and so on. By the end of this course, students are expected to be familiar with the central problems in epistemology and their solutions or resolutions.



### Required Reading:

Feldman, Richard. 2003 *Epistemology*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

### Recommended Reading:

Audi, Robert. 2011. *Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* New York: Routledge.

Goldman, Alvin I., and McGrath, Matthew. 2015. *Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Steup, Matthias. 2014. "Epistemology." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2014 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2014/entries/epistemology/>.

Stroud, Barry. 1984. *The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

### Course Requirements:

Quizzes	50%
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Exam x 2	50%
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\*Starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week, there will be a quiz each week, which is about the materials covered in the last lecture. The overall grade of the quizzes will be determined by averaging the grades of all the quizzes, dropping the lowest three (the default grade of absences is 0).

\*Participants in classroom discussions may get extra credits up to 5% of the total grade.

**Class Policies:**

- Silence cell phones before entering class.
- Do not text messaging, nor surf internet.
- You may use laptops for taking notes. But you will be banned from doing so if you use your laptop for any other purpose.
- Missed exams may be made up only if there is a verified medical excuse or the equivalent and **the request for a make-up exam is made at least one day before the original exam**. Quizzes cannot be made up.
- Speak up. An effective way of learning philosophy is to participate in class.
- Please feel free to comment or to ask questions.
- Every question or comment will be treated with respect by your instructor and by your colleagues, so if you are confused about something, or interested in something, speak up.
- You are always welcome to email or drop by office hours to discuss any aspect of the course.

**Tentative Schedule** (subject to change, with notice)

Chapter 1: Epistemological Questions

Chapter 2: The Traditional Analysis of Knowledge

Chapter 3: Modifying the Traditional Analysis of Knowledge

Chapter 4: Evidential Theories of Knowledge and Justification

Exam #1

Chapter 5: Nonevidentialist Theories of Knowledge and Justification

Chapter 6: Skepticism (I)

Chapter 7: Skepticism (II)

Chapter 8: Epistemology of Science

Chapter 9: Epistemological Relativism

Exam #2