

**PHIL 3140**  
**EPISTEMOLOGY**

**Term:** Winter 2014  
**Meetings:** WF 10:05-11:25am  
**Venue:** Canal Building 2104

**Instructor:** Jordan Dodd  
**Office:** 3A64 Paterson Hall  
**Office hours:** TBD

**Email:** jordan\_dodd@carleton.ca

### 1. Course description

This course is an advanced introduction to some major topics in epistemology. We will examine questions about the concept of knowledge (e.g., ‘What is knowledge?’), justification (e.g., ‘What are the sources of epistemic justification?’), self-knowledge (e.g., ‘What distinguishes self-knowledge from all other knowledge?’), disagreement (e.g., ‘What should you do when you discover that you and an epistemic peer disagree about some claim?’), moral skepticism (e.g., ‘Is anyone ever justified in holding any moral belief?’), and external-world skepticism (e.g., ‘Does anyone ever know anything about the external world?’).

Prerequisite: 0.5 credits in philosophy and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year standing in a philosophy program, or permission of the department.

### 2. Texts

There’s nothing to buy. All of the readings are linked to via cuLearn.

### 3. Course Requirements

The marking scheme is:

40% Essays – 2 essays, each worth 20%  
40% Tests – 2 tests, each worth 20%  
10% Mini-papers – 5 mini-papers, each worth 2%  
10% Attendance (see below)

#### *Essays*

There will be two short essays. Although the length of the essays is somewhat flexible, the main touchstone length should be approx. 1000-1200 words.

**Essay#1** will be assigned on February 6<sup>th</sup> ... and is **due February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Essay#2** will be assigned on April 8<sup>th</sup> ...and is **due April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Note: Both essays must be submitted electronically. Exact submission details will be discussed when Essay#1 is assigned.

### ***Tests***

There will be two tests. Each will be on two of the Units in the course

**Test#1** – on Units 1 & 2 – will be in class on Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup>

**Test#2** – on Units 3 & 4 – will be in class on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>

Each test will only be on the ‘textbook reading’ for the Units that that test covers.

Note: Make-up tests will only be available in the case of documented medical reasons for missing the original test.

### ***Mini-papers***

Five mini-papers (each max. 200 words) are required. These are brief critical discussions of theses or arguments in the assigned readings.

You have some flexibility about when to hand in mini-papers. But this flexibility is only within the following framework:

- (1) Each of your 5 mini-papers must be on a different reading.
- (2) Mini-papers can only be on the ‘essay reading’ for any given unit, and so not on the ‘textbook reading’ that will typically begin units.
- (3) You must hand in your mini-paper at the start of a class in which are scheduled to address the reading that your mini-paper addresses.

Note: Mini-papers will not be accepted electronically.

See the cuLearn handout on mini-papers for this course for more information about them.

### ***Attendance***

The attendance mark is *all or nothing*. The rubric is as follows:

There are 21 classes in the semester (and, additionally, both the first (‘meet and greet’) class of the semester and the two classes where tests are scheduled).

- If you attend at least 17 of those 21 classes, you get the 10% attendance mark.
- If you do not attend at least 17 of those 21 classes, you get 0% as your attendance mark.

Note: If any class is cancelled, I will count everyone as attending that class.

#### **4. Respect**

Please be respectful of your classmates (and me!) at all times during classes. This includes, for example, not talking when others are, and – obviously – not espousing any sort of bigoted views. If I feel that you're being disruptive, I'll kick you out.

#### **5. Plagiarism**

There will be serious repercussions if I believe that you plagiarised in any of the essays. I will immediately send an incident report to the Dean's Office, which will determine further action.

Be sure that you are familiar with the university plagiarism rules, which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations, section 14.3, pg. 56 – or online: <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

#### **6. Email**

I do generally respond to emails ... but often not quickly. In other words, you shouldn't think of me as being 'on call' via email at all times. One reason to note this is that you *should not* put off contacting me about pressing matters until the last minute. Odds are that last minute emails won't reach my attention in time.

Generally speaking, my office hours, not email, should be used for extra help, questions about material, etc.

#### **7. Feedback**

The university asks for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback is important. But it doesn't help me change things on the fly – that is, in ways that will help you, as opposed to helping future students.

So give me feedback: after class, via email, at office hours, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that such and such topic should be covered in more detail, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear – or tell me that you think we are going a good speed, that such and such topic was covered in good detail, that our discussion of such and such topic was nice and clear. Either way, feedback is welcome and appreciated!

#### **8. Miscellaneous Info (about formatting, references, and late penalties)**

(1) Formatting requirements:

- Assignments should be type-written in double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman.
- Don't put a title page on anything.
- Put your name, your student number, the course number, and my name at the topic of any document that you hand in.

(2) Citations:

- Bibliographies and references in footnotes/parenthetical notation are not required for the mini-papers. But they are required for the essays.

(3) Late essays

- Late essays will be penalized one letter step per day late.
- So: If an 'A' paper is submitted a day late, it will receive an 'A-', and if it's submitted two days late, it will receive a 'B+', etc.
- Late essays will be accepted without penalty if, and only if, there is a well-documented, legitimate reason.

## **9. Read the official policies**

Various official Carleton University and Department of Philosophy policies are laid out in the 'University Policies' document that is available in the 'Logistics' folder for this course on cuLearn. You are responsible for knowing all of the material that's presented there. That requirement just follows from being a student in this course.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

### **Plagiarism:**

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam

requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Important Dates:**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sept. 4    | Classes start (after Orientation events).   |
| Sept. 17   | Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.   |
| Sept. 30   | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.   |
| Oct. 13    | Thanksgiving Day – university closed.   |
| Oct. 27-31 | Fall Break – no classes.  |
| Nov. 24    | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.   |
| Dec. 8     | Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.  |
| Dec. 8     | Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).   |
| Dec. 9     | No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.   |
| Dec. 10-21 | Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.   |
| Dec. 21    | Take-home exams are due.  |
| Jan. 5     | Winter term classes begin.  |
| Jan. 16    | Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.  |
| Jan. 31    | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.  |
| Feb. 16-20 | Winter Break, classes suspended.  |
| Mar. 24    | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.   |
| Apr. 8     | Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. |
| Apr. 8     | Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).   |
| Apr. 9-10  | No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.   |
| Apr. 11-23 | Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.   |
| Apr. 23    | Take-home exams are due.  |

### **Addresses:**

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Department of Philosophy:        | 3A35 Paterson Hall<br><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a><br>520-2110  |
| Registrar's Office:              | 300 Tory<br><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a><br>520-3500  |
| Student Academic Success Centre: | 302 Tory<br><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a><br>520-7850  |
| Writing Tutorial Service:        | 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library<br><a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a><br>520-6632 |
| MacOdrum Library                 | <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a><br>520-2735   |