PHIL6320 Winter 2020   Theory of Knowledge

[Department of Philosophy](http://www.wmich.edu/philosophy)

[Western Michigan University](http://www.wmich.edu/)

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

**Lecture**

Time: Wednesday 4:00-6:30

Room: Philosophy Seminar Room

**Catalog Description**

An examination of the nature of truth, belief, and evidence. Topics may vary from term to term. Examples include: questions about the nature of perception, a priori and a posteriori knowledge, skepticism, epistemic foundations, epistemic justification, and other related topics

**Course Description**

This course has two parts. First, we will conduct a relatively quick review of introductory epistemology, using primarily Richard Feldman’s *Epistemology*. Second, we will pursue a more in-depth examination of recent themes and developments in contemporary epistemology. The focus for this class will be knowledge closure, using my book *Against Knowledge Closure* and associated readings (that will be made available when we get there).

**Course Requirements**

After we complete the introductory material there will be a mid-term covering it (the date of which is therefore TBA, depending on when we complete that material). You will also be writing a term paper, approx. 15 pages/3750 word minimum, due last day of class. Finally, you will also be making short presentations on the readings covering the contemporary issues component. The paper will be worth 60% of the grade, the test 30%, and the presentations 10%. Attendance is required.

**Grade Scale**

The grade scale for this class is the standard GPA-grade equivalency scale (A=4.0, BA=3.5, etc.)

**Regarding Academic Honesty**

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at [http://catalog.wmich.edu](http://catalog.wmich.edu/) under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

**Accommodation for Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disabilities Services for Students center at the beginning of the semester; contact information is here: <http://www.wmich.edu/disabilitycenter>. A disability determination must be made by this office before accommodations are provided by the instructor.