ANKARA UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy

PHI113-THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Lecturer: Ömer Faik ANLI, Ph.D., Associate Professor
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Course Schedule: Tuesday, 14:00-15:30
Office Hours: Tuesday, 15:30 – 16:00 by appointment
Class room location:

Course Description and Objectives

Like many others, students think that 'knowledge' is a self-explanatory concept. Unless anybody's opinions on this subject are asked, people do not have any problems with ‘knowledge’ or ‘to know something’. In other words, in ordinary life, there is no problem with this concept until somebody asks a question about it. As long as you are not asked what the knowledge and to know is, you know exactly what the knowledge is.

The Theory of Knowledge course has been designed to develop skills that will help you investigate the origin and reliability of the knowledge you have acquired. It explores how you, the individual or knower, utilizes emotions, reason, language, and sense perception to come to know what you know. In this course we will explore how you have come to know what you know in the areas of the Natural Sciences, Human Sciences, History, Arts, Ethics, and Mathematics. You will be asked to scrutinize your knowledge by comparing the ways of knowing and knowledge claims across disciplines, and by becoming aware of how personal and cultural views impact the knowing process for yourself and for others.

This course is distinguished from the Epistemology I course with its focus point. This term (theory of knowledge) refers particularly to post-19th century Epistemology. It tries to make an epistemological model by focusing not on knowledge in general, but on the scientific knowledge which is accepted to have proven its legitimacy.

Lesson / Week 1	Introduction What makes science so special? What is the 'scientific method' that leads to reliable results? What is the basis of science and the authority of the scientist?
Lesson / Week 2	Positivism
Lesson / Week 3	Positivist History of Science
Lesson / Week 4	Epistemological Structure of Positivism

Lesson / Week 5	Strengths and Weaknesses of the Theory
Lesson / Week 6	Transition to Falsificationism
Lesson / Week 8	Introduction to Falsificationism
Lesson / Week 9	Scientific Progress Model of Falsificationism
Lesson / Week 10	Strong Criticism Against Popper
Lesson / Week 11	The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
Lesson / Week 12	The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (2)
Lesson / Week 13	Paul Karl Feyerabend (Epistemological Anarchism)
Lesson / Week 14	Discussion: Theory of Science and A Concrete Case

Recommended Reading

MUSGRAVE, Alan. *Common Sense, Science and Scepticism –A Historical Introduction to Theory of Knowledge*-, Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Student Responsibilities:

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. The class will require your active participation.

Course Evaluation Criteria:

Students are expected to attend at least 70% of the course during the semester.

Calculation of the total grade of the course:

Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 80%