

ANKARA UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy

EPISTEMOLOGY II

Lecturer: Ömer Faik ANLI, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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Course Schedule: Monday, 14:45-16:30

Office Hours: Monday, 13:30 – 14:00 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.

Defined narrowly, epistemology is the study of knowledge and justified belief. As the study of knowledge, epistemology is concerned with the following questions: What are the necessary and sufficient conditions of knowledge? What are its sources? What is its structure, and what are its limits? As the study of justified belief, epistemology aims to answer questions such as: How we are to understand the concept of justification? What makes justified beliefs justified? Is justification internal or external to one's own mind? Understood more broadly, epistemology is about issues having to do with the creation and dissemination of knowledge in particular areas of inquiry. This course will provide a systematic overview of the problems that the questions above raise and focus in some depth on issues relating to the structure and the limits of knowledge and justification. In addition, this course aims to engage in contemporary epistemology discussions as a continuation of Epistemology 1 course.

Lesson / Week 1	What is the epistemology? Theories of Truth: What is the truth criterion?
Lesson / Week 2	The Correspondence Theory of Truth
Lesson / Week 3	The Coherence Theory of Truth

Lesson / Week 4	The Coherence Theory of Truth: Interpretation, meaning and skepticism
Lesson / Week 5	What is Knowledge? Knowing Individuals Knowing How Knowing Facts
Lesson / Week 6	What is Justification? What Justifies Belief?
Lesson / Week 7	Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?
Lesson / Week 8	Contemporary Epistemology Discussions Reliabilist Epistemology
Lesson / Week 9	Process Reliabilism for Justification
Lesson / Week 10	Problems for Process Reliabilism
Lesson / Week 11	Internalism and Externalism
Lesson / Week 12	Richard Rorty and “The End of the Epistemology Thesis”
Lesson / Week 13-14	Discussion Texts

Recommended Reading

PRITCHARD, Duncan. *What Is This Thing Called Knowledge?*, Third Edition, Routledge, 2014.

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%