Phil 183 – Theory of Knowledge
Syllabus – Winter 2019 - UCLA

Basic information

**Instructor:** Professor S. Roush – roush@ucla.edu
**Office:** Dodd Hall 394
**Office Hours:** M 4-5, W 4-5
**Teaching Assistant:** Ian Boon
**Office:** Dodd Hall 330
**Office Hours:** Thursday 11-1
**Lecture time and venue:** M, W, 2-3:15, Public Affairs Building 2242
**Discussion sections time and venue:** Thurs 9 – Boelter 4283, Thursday 10 - Geology 4660

Course Description

By any reasonable account, human beings have more knowledge today than ever before due to the progress of science, but there is still philosophical disagreement about what knowledge is, how we should respond to radical skepticism, and how much science itself can tell us about knowledge. In this problem-oriented course we will study contemporary classics of epistemology on the topics of skepticism, justification, foundationalism, tracking, reliabilism, internalism, and externalism, among others. We will take epistemology to be responsible for understanding scientific cases of knowledge in addition to ordinary cases, and also consider the implications for epistemology of results in experimental psychology suggesting human beings’ lack of awareness of the true reasons for their beliefs.

**Course website:** on [www.ccle.ucla.edu](http://www.ccle.ucla.edu) The syllabus and other useful materials are posted there. Students registered in this course have access.

**Course Requirements:** There will be two papers – the first 1,200-1,500 words, the second 1,500-2,000 – and four quizzes on dates indicated below. Topics for the papers will be posted. The readings listed under each date below are expected to be completed by the first class of that week. In most cases the material on the quizzes will have *not yet been discussed in class*. You will
receive reading questions each week to guide you towards what is most important in the new reading.

★ Attendance in section is required, and will be incorporated into the participation portion of your final grade.

★ To receive a passing grade in the course you must complete both papers.

★ Unexcused late papers lose two thirds of a letter grade per day (e.g., A- goes to B). Midterms and poor time management aren’t excuses.

Grading: Your grade will break down as follows:

- Quizzes – (3) ———— 15%
- Paper 1 – due 2/8 ——— 33%
- Paper 2 – due 3/15 ——— 42%
- Participation ——— 10%

Your lowest quiz score (out of 4) will be dropped. Your participation grade will be based on section participation.

Texts: The book Epistemology: An Anthology, edited by Sosa, Kim, Fantl, and McGrath, second edition, 2008, is required. The remaining readings are available in online journals through a UCLA connection or proxy or on the course website. References are given below. Refer to the schedule below to see what to read for a given week. If the cost of the book is a financial challenge for you, please contact me.

Disabilities:
Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825 1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. In order to ensure accommodations, students need to contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term.

If you wish me to know about any accommodations you need for any physical, psychological, or learning disability, or if you want me to have emergency
medical information, please speak to me as soon as possible, either after class, or during office hours, or by email.

**Statement on Academic Integrity, Citation, and Plagiarism**

Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your professor.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis. In this course any style of citation is acceptable as long as it is applied consistently throughout a piece of work. All the bibliographic information for the readings is included in the book *Epistemology*, in the table of contents of the coursepack, and in journal articles you will look up online.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you plan to employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, you would normally indent it and use single spacing, but for your papers in this class long quotations would defeat the purpose and is strongly discouraged. In any case, be sure to cite the original source of a quotation in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from the professor or TA beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments, and of thinking for yourself, and help to protect and promote academic integrity at UCLA. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty – including punishment and a formal discipline file, possible loss of
future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to graduate school – are simply not worth it. The whole issue is taken more seriously than you may imagine, in all professional areas. Think of it on analogy with a criminal record.
Schedule

I. Skepticism

1/7, 1/9
Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy,” website

1/14 – QUIZ, 1/16

II. Foundationalism vs. Coherentism

1/23

1/28, 1/30

III. Analysis of Knowledge

2/4 – QUIZ

2/6

2/8 First Paper Due 5pm – questions will be posted
2/11, 2/13
Nozick, “Knowledge,” 255-262, book (under title “Knowledge and Skepticism”)

IV. Internalism vs. Externalism

2/20 - QUIZ, 2/25
Goldman, “What is Justified Belief?,” 333-347, book

2/27, 3/4

3/6 - QUIZ, 3/11, 3/13
Nisbett and Wilson, “Telling More than We Can Know,” *Psychological Review* (1977) 84: 231-259. online journal

3/15 Second Paper Due 5pm – questions will be posted

Resources available to you at UCLA:

*Title IX Resources*
UCLA prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, there are a variety of resources to assist you.

**CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES:** You can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) also provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768.

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES:** You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu,
(310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491. These offices may be required to pursue an official investigation.

Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator—A NON-CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCE—should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

**Psychological Health, Well-Being and Resilience**

UCLA is renowned for academic excellence, and yet we know that many students feel overwhelmed at times by demands to succeed academically, socially and personally. Our campus community is committed to helping all students thrive, learn to cope with stress, and build resilience. Remember, self-care is a skill that is critical to your long-term success. Here are some of the many resources available at UCLA to support you:

(CAPS): [https://www.counseling.ucla.edu](https://www.counseling.ucla.edu) Provides counseling and other psychological/mental health services to students. Walk-in hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-4:30pm and Friday 9am-4:30pm in John Wooden Center West. Crisis counseling is also available 24 hours/day at (310) 825-0768.

Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center: [http://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu](http://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu) Provides high quality and accessible ambulatory healthcare and education by caring professionals to support the academic success and personal development of all UCLA students.

Healthy Campus Initiative (HCI): [https://healthy.ucla.edu](https://healthy.ucla.edu) Provides links to a wide variety of resources for enhancing physical and psychological well-being, positive social interactions, healthy sleep, healthy eating, healthy physical activity and more.

Campus and Student Resilience: [https://www.resilience.ucla.edu](https://www.resilience.ucla.edu) Provides programs to promote resilience and trains students to help support their peers.

UCLA Recreation: [https://www.recreation.ucla.edu](https://www.recreation.ucla.edu) Offers a broad array of services and programs including fitness, yoga, dance, martial arts, meditation, sports, and much more.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: [https://equity.ucla.edu](https://equity.ucla.edu) Committed to providing an equal learning, working and living environment at UCLA and supports a range of programs to promote these goals campus-wide.

UCLA GRIT Coaching Program: [https://www.grit.ucla.edu](https://www.grit.ucla.edu) GRIT stands for Guidance, Resilience, Integrity and Transformation. In this program, UCLA students receive individualized support from trained peer coaches to manage stress, fostering positive social connections, set goals, and navigate campus resources.

**Resources for Students Dealing with Financial Stress**

Bruin Shelter [http://www.bruinshelter.org](http://www.bruinshelter.org) Provides a safe, supportive environment for fellow college students experiencing homelessness by fostering a collaborative effort between universities, community-based organizations, and service providers.

The CPO Food Shelter: [http://www.cpo.ucla.edu/cpo/foodcloset](http://www.cpo.ucla.edu/cpo/foodcloset) Provides free food for any UCLA student who may be experiencing hunger and/or struggling to attain food due to financial hardship.
Resources for Academic Matters

Academic Counseling [https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Academics/Academic-Counseling](https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Academics/Academic-Counseling) Provides advice on how to choose major, how to plan classes to fulfill requirements, etc.
Academic Support [https://reslife.ucla.edu/academics/](https://reslife.ucla.edu/academics/) Provides places to study and print, learning groups, and support for academic tasks, for example, writing. (See next item.)
Undergraduate Writing Center [https://wp.ucla.edu/wc/](https://wp.ucla.edu/wc/) Provides instruction on how to improve writing.

Peer Advising

Visit a peer advisor for help with career planning, academic support, financial aid, and writing skills.
5PM - 7PM at tables in front of dining halls:
- ASK Peer Counselors (De Neve on Mondays, Covel on Tuesdays)
- Writing Programs (De Neve on Mondays)
- Career Center (De Neve on Tuesdays)
- Financial Aid (De Neve on Wednesdays)