



Epistemology: PHIL6310-01/6000
Division of Theology and History

(NOLA2U Flex)
Fall 2021

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Note: Please contact Casey Evans for all Blackboard-related questions and me for all content-related questions. ALWAYS include your name, Student ID, and Course Code (PHIL6310-01/6000) in every email.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces students to basic principles of epistemology and how to apply them as part of a Christian intellectual life. Attention will be given to epistemology in religious experience, theological construction, philosophical explanation, and apologetic and evangelistic presentation.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Students will be able to articulate and defend a particular theory of truth.
2. Students will be able to identify and make use of various modes of inference.
3. Students will be able to defend religious epistemology.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

1. **HDWK** - James K. Dew, Jr. and Mark Foreman, *How Do We Know?*, 2nd Ed. IVP-ISBN: 978-0830855124 (**Must be 2nd Edition!**)
2. **ECR** - Michael Huemer, ed. and Robert Audi, *Epistemology: Contemporary Readings*, Routledge Contemporary Readings in Philosophy). Routledge-ISBN: 978-0415259217
3. **EBG** - Robert Martin, *Epistemology: A Beginner's Guide*. Oneworld Publications-ISBN: 978-1851687329.
4. Alvin Plantinga, *Knowledge and Christian Belief*, Eerdmans-ISBN: 978-0802872043

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Quizzes (20% of final grade).** Quizzes are over the lectures and the readings. There is almost always at least 1 quiz per week, but often there are 2 per week. All quizzes are cumulative, so you will need to stay fresh on everything. The lowest 4 quiz grades will be dropped. All quizzes are open-note, but closed book. You may, however, take as many notes from the readings as you like and use those notes in the quizzes, but you may not use the books in the quizzes. Each quiz is only open for 5 minutes so be ready and studied up!

Reading quizzes are for the reading of that week, due before class starts on Wednesday.

Lecture quizzes are for the lecture material covered the week before, due before class starts on Wednesday.

2. **Exams (each exam 20% of final grade, 40% total).** Exams will be given over material from the lectures and assigned reading. Exams consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or short essay. Like the quizzes, everything is cumulative. Like the quizzes, they are open note, but closed book. Again, feel free to take notes from the readings as you read. You may use whatever notes you take for the exams, but you may not keep the books open.
3. **Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade).** In addition to the lectures and readings for the course, students are expected to be present at all class meetings each week and engage with the lecture material. Students who are “present” in the discussion but do not participate will receive very little credit for that session. I EXPECT YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS!

Flex Students: For students in the Flex section of the course (6000), there will be a regular live event for students to engage with the professor on the content of the lectures and the readings. Event attendance *and* participation will factor into the student’s attendance and participation grade. Those Flex-section students who view the lecture live and ask questions will fulfill the requirements of attendance and participation at that time.

4. **Position Paper (20% of final grade).** Students will write a 10-12 page position paper dealing with one of the topics covered in the course. The student will write a paper expressing her/his position on that issue. It is imperative that the student (1) clearly states his/her position and (2) clearly makes a case for his/her position in the paper. Higher grades will be given to those papers that incorporate some research and demonstrate clear argumentation.
5. **Book Review (10%).** Students will write a 6-8-page book review of Plantinga’s *Knowledge and Christian Belief*. Students should spend no more than 1 page summarizing the book. The remaining 5-7 pages of the review should **critically interact** with the content of the book. Do not just summarize!

GRADING SCALE

- A: 93 – 100
- B: 85 – 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week	Lecture	Reading	Assignments
1	August 18 Introduction to Epistemology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 1,3 • HDWK: Ch. 1 	
2	August 25 History of Epistemology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
3	Sept. 1 Methodism vs. Particularism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch. 1 – Locke (32-36) ○ Ch. 9 – Descartes (513-23) ○ Ch. 9 – Chisolm (590-601) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
4	Sept. 8 Nature of Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDWK: Ch. 2 • ECR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch. 3 – Plato (131-41) ○ Ch. 8 – Gettier (444-46) ○ Ch. 8 – Goldman (450-63) ○ Ch. 9 – Lehrer & Paxson (464-74) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz • Book Review Due 9.12.21
5	Sept. 15 Nature of Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 5 • HDWK: Ch. 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
6	Sept. 22 Skepticism, Certainty, and Intellectual Virtues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 8 • HDWK: Ch. 11 • ECR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch. 9 – Putnam (524-38) ○ Ch. 9 – Moore (602-612) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
7	Sept. 29 Inferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDWK: Ch. 5 • ECR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch. 5 – Fumerton (259-70) ○ Ch. 6 – Hume (298-310) ○ Ch. 6 – Edwards (311-19) ○ Ch. 6 – Goodman (320-32) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
8	October 6	<i>Fall Break</i>	
9	October 13 Perception, Testimony, and Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 7 • HDWK: Ch. 3,6 • ECR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch. 1 – Hume (46-50) ○ Ch. 2 – Russell (88-90) ○ Ch. 4 – Reid (234-38) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz • Midterm Due 10.13.21 before class

10	October 20	Objectivity & Subjectivity; Realism & Anti-Realism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDWK: Ch. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
11	October 27	Naturalized Epistemology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 6 • ECR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ch. 3 – Ayer (166-75) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
12	Nov. 3	Religious Epistemology (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDWK: CH. 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
13	Nov. 10	Religious Epistemology (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDWK: Ch. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz
14	Nov. 17	<i>No Class This Week – Paper Due 11. 28.21</i>		
15	Nov. 24	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>		
16	Dec. 1	Internalism and Externalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBG: Ch. 4 • HDWK: Ch. 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz • Lecture Quiz • Final Due 12.8.21

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: NOBTS follows the attendance policy as stated in the NOBTS catalog.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

- You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
 - You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
 - All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
 - Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: There are no make up quizzes or exams. Students are given very large windows of time before the close of quizzes and exams. Students may turn papers in up to two weeks late of the due day, with a letter grade and a half per week they are late.

3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all NOBTS students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:
 - Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
 - BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
 - ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
 - www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
8. Writing Style Guide: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>
9. Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff": NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

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