



INTRODUCTION

Course description:

In this course, we will explore the nature of knowledge, science, and truth. We will examine the main modern and contemporary philosophical approaches to these topics. We will reflect on the main challenges, problems, and discussions that epistemologists have faced throughout the last few centuries.

- **Degree:** PPE
- **Module in the Degree Program:** Module II. Humanistic and Philosophical Foundations / Matter 3: Knowledge, Reality, Action
- **Number of credits (ECTS):** 6
- **Year:** 2nd year, 2nd semester
- **Type of course:** Required
- **Instructors:** Dr. Jean-Baptiste Guillon
- **Language:** English
- **Lecture schedule:** Monday 12:00-14:00, Tuesday 10:00-12:00, Room 34 Central Building (second floor).

LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

CG3 - Comprender, analizar y evaluar de manera crítica los elementos configuradores del ser humano y de la sociedad actual en sus múltiples dimensiones: antropológica, histórica, cultural, política, social y económica.

CG4 - Expresar conocimientos e ideas de manera oral y escrita, con rigor, orden y creatividad, que aborden cuestiones y retos de la coyuntura económica, política, social y cultural de nuestra sociedad.

CB1 - Que los estudiantes hayan demostrado poseer y comprender conocimientos en un área de estudio que parte de la base de la educación secundaria general, y se suele encontrar a un nivel que, si bien se apoya en libros de texto avanzados, incluye también algunos aspectos que implican conocimientos procedentes de la vanguardia de su campo de estudio.

CB3 - Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética

CB4 - Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado

CE1 - Identificar y analizar los elementos más significativos que conforman las diferentes realidades sociales para interpretarlas desde un enfoque sistémico, que integre las áreas de conocimiento del Grado (filosofía, política y economía).



CE4 - Identificar cuestiones filosóficas de fondo implícitas en los debates abiertos actualmente en los ámbitos sociales de la cultura, la ciencia, la tecnología, la economía, el derecho, la política, y los medios de información y comunicación.

CE6 - Conocer y manejar en análisis críticos las principales metodologías y conceptos de la filosofía.

PROGRAM

1. BELIEFS AND WORLDVIEWS: how language and thought can represent the world around us
2. TRUTH: what does it mean to say that a thought or a sentence is *true*? Does it make sense to claim that truth is *absolute* instead of *relative*?
3. KNOWLEDGE AND JUSTIFICATION: which ones of our beliefs can count as *knowledge*? Is knowledge the same as "true belief"? How are our beliefs justified?
4. INQUIRY AND SCIENCE: is science our only source of true knowledge? Can science establish some definitive results or is everything always open to further revision?

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Classroom lectures: 48 hours
2. Classroom activities: 2 hours
3. Directed project (group assignment): 26 hours, including tutoring session(s)
4. Personal study: 72 hours
5. Final exam: 2 hours

Details regarding the topics for reflection, methodology, and assignments will be explained in class and uploaded to the course's internal area.

ASSESSMENT

ORDINARY CALL

The course will be evaluated as follows:

- 60% of the grade will come from the final exam, which will revolve around the contents explained in class and in the primary bibliography (see below). In order to pass the course you must pass this exam (i.e. getting at least 50% of the grade). This exam will take place on April 29th.
- 20% of the grade will come from classroom activities (detailed information in this regard will be given in class and uploaded to Adi).
- 20% of the grade will come from the directed project, (deadline: April 12th; detailed information in this regard will be given in class and uploaded to Adi). There will be a test about the assignment itself and the material upon which it is based (10 multiple choice questions, with a 0.25 points deduction for each wrong answer), to be done the same day of the final exam:
 - If the student obtains a grade between 0 and 2,9 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will lose all the points obtained in the group assignment.



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- If the student obtains a grade between 3 and 4,9 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will get half the points obtained in the group assignment.
- If the student obtains a grade between 5 and 7,9 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will keep all the points obtained in the group assignment.
- If the student obtains a grade between 8 and 10 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will get the points obtained in the group assignment multiplied by 1.1.

EXTRAORDINARY CALL

- Students who fail the course, will have the opportunity to take a make-up exam in June (60%); in order to pass the course you must pass this exam (i.e. getting at least 50% of the grade). This exam will take place on June 17th.
- They may also repeat four class activities (20%, to be done the same day of the make-up exam; they must previously inform the professor that they want to repeat the activities, deadline for this being June 12th) and the directed project (20%, individual assignment; submission deadline: June 12th). If they choose to repeat the directed project, in the same day of the make-up exam they will have to do a test about the assignment itself and the material upon which it is based (10 multiple choice questions, with a 0,33 points deduction for each wrong answer):
 - If the student obtains a grade between 0 and 6,9 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will lose all the points obtained in the assignment.
 - If the student obtains a grade between 7 and 10 (out of 10) in the test, s/he will keep all the points obtained in the assignment.

A document will be uploaded to Adi, containing some further details regarding classroom activities and the directed project.

Retakers must do the final exam and the classroom activities. The remaining 20% may be obtained from their directed project of last year.

ATTENTION: Please note that any attempt at fraud, cheating, plagiarism, or other irregular behavior constitutes a serious violation, as established in Title IV, "Academic Disciplinary Regulations for Students", within the system of rules governing coexistence at the University of Navarra.

Students with special educational needs

Students with special educational needs must contact the Academic Coordination Office of the Faculty in advance to obtain the corresponding authorization for any adaptations (for example, extra time in exams). This authorization must then be sent by the student to the professor. It is recommended that this procedure be completed at the beginning of the semester, and in no case after October 1st.

OFFICE HOURS



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- Office: 2321 Ismael Sánchez-Bella Building, Tuesday 16:00 - 18:00.
- If you want to come on my office hours, it is highly recommended to write an email to jguillon@unav.es, in order to make sure another student will not come at the same time. It is also possible to ask (by email) for an appointment at a different time of the week.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

The required readings, for the activities in class, and for the final exam, will all be made available in pdf in ADI, in the folder "readings". It is not necessary to buy any particular textbook. Nevertheless, it can be helpful to consult the following reference works.

Primary bibliography for the final exam (along with the contents explained in class):

- For the "Beliefs" unit:

- Descartes, René. *A discourse on the method of correctly conducting one's reason and seeking truth in the sciences*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006 [1637]. [Find it in the Librar](#)

- For the "Truth" unit:

- Walker, Ralph C. S. "Theories of truth." (excerpt). In Hale B., Wright C., and Miller A. (eds.), *A companion to the philosophy of language, vol. 1* (2nd ed.). Chichester: Wiley, 2017, pp. 532-551. [Available in Adi](#).

- For the "Knowledge" unit:

- Audi, Robert. *Epistemology : a contemporary introduction to the theory of knowledge* (2nd ed.). London, New York: Routledge, 2002. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Chisholm, Roderick M. *Theory of Knowledge* (3rd ed.). Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall Internacional, 1989. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Pritchard, Duncan. *What is this thing called knowledge?* London, New York: Routledge, 2006. [Find it in the Library](#)

- For the "Science" unit:

- Chalmers, Alan F. *What is this thing called science?* (3rd ed.). Buckingham: Open University Press, 1999, chapters 5, 8, 9 and 10 (pp. 59-73 and 104-160). [Find it in the Library](#).

Bibliography for the group assignment:

See the document "Instructions for classroom activities and group assignment" in Adi.

Other recommended readings:



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- Bourdieu, Pierre. "The specificity of the scientific field and the social conditions of the progress of reason." *Social Science Information*, 14(6), 19-47, 1975. <https://doi.org/10.1177/053901847501400602> [Find it in the Library](#)
- Copleston, Frederick C. *A history of philosophy. IV, Descartes to Leibniz*. Westminster: The Newman Press, 1965. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Copleston, Frederick C. *A history of philosophy. V, Hobbes to Hume*. Westminster: The Newman Press, 1964. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Copleston, Frederick C. *A history of philosophy. VI, Wolff to Kant*. Westminster: The Newman Press, 1964. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Feyerabend, Paul. *Philosophical Papers. I, Realism, rationalism, and scientific method*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1981. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Foucault, Michel. *Power/knowledge : selected interviews and other writings, 1972-1977*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1980. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of pure reason*. Cambridge, New York : Cambridge University Press, 1998 [1781-1787]. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The structure of scientific revolutions* (3rd ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1962]. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Lakatos, Imre. *Philosophical Papers. I, The Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes*. Cambridge University Press, 1978. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Latour, Bruno. *Laboratory life : the construction of scientific facts*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Locke, John. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975 [1689]. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Nagel, Jennifer. *Knowledge : a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Popper, Karl. *The logic of scientific discovery*. London: Routledge Classics, 2009. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Sosa, Ernest, et al. (eds.). *Epistemology : an anthology*. Malden: Blackwell Publishers, 1999. [Find it in the Library](#)
- Suppe, Frederick (ed.). *The structure of scientific theories* (2nd ed.). Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1979. [Find it in the Library](#)