

# SYLLABUS

## IDS 802: Ways of Knowing in Comparative Perspective

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**OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A comparative, critical exploration of the nature, kinds, worth, and limits of human knowledge. Roughly equal amounts of attention are given to (a) the sciences, (b) the arts and humanities, and (c) a selection from a menu of such special topics as mathematical knowledge, epistemic relativism, moral knowledge, religious knowledge, and the role of the search for knowledge in well-lived human lives.

### GOALS

#### Cognitively:

1. To acquaint you with the nature, kinds, worth, and limits of human knowledge.
2. To help you to fashion insightfully, consistently, and coherently a holistic framework for relating the various ways of knowing characteristic of the different disciplines and domains of life.
3. To help you to develop your ability to think critically.

#### Affectively:

1. To encourage you to respect the past achievements, and to care to participate for yourself in the future achievements, of humankind's quest for knowledge.
2. To encourage you to feel an appropriate humility about our own and our species' efforts to sound the depths of things.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Work that will receive a grade:

1. Four 100-point homework assignments (two of these are exercises using principles of reasoning, and two are 1000-1250 word essays on assigned subjects).
2. Participation in online class discussions = 100 points. Four sorts of questions are particularly appropriate:

- a. **Clarity:** What do you mean by that?
  - b. **Exemplification:** Can you give me an example of what you mean?
  - c. **Implication:** What follows from that? (or) Doesn't X follow from that?
  - d. **Basis:** On what basis do you say that?
3. A 200-point term paper (a full description of this project is included in the section which contains homework assignments and practice examinations).
  4. A 150-point Examination Over Ways of Knowing in the Sciences
  5. A 150-point Examination Over Ways of Knowing in the Arts & Humanities
  6. A 150-point Examination Over Topics in Last Third of the Course

**Work that will affect the grade only if done poorly or not at all:**

1. Doing all assigned readings and collateral experiences (*e.g.*, viewing of videos on reserve, visits to galleries or studios)

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 100% to 90%
- B = 89% to 80%
- C = 79% to 70%
- D = 69% to 60%
- U = 59% to 0%

**DUE DATES**

Due dates are found under the Course Documents button on the website for the class (<http://blackboard.fhsu.edu/>) of which you will have access to just prior to the beginning of the semester. The following time frames may vary slightly from semester to semester.

- Homework 1 - Due about 4 1/2 weeks after classes begin.
- Homework 2 - Due about 1 weeks after Homework 1.
- Exam 1 - Due about 2 weeks after Homework 2.
- Homework 3 - Due about 1 week after Exam 1.
- Homework 4 - Due about 1 week after Homework 3.
- Exam 2 - Due about 2 weeks after Homework 4.
- Term Paper - Due about 3 weeks after Exam 2.
- Exam 3 - Due about 1 week after Term Paper.

\* Note that due dates for the Summer will be considerably condensed as the Summer semester is shorter.

## TEXTS

1. W.V. Quine and J.S. Ullian, *The Web of Belief*, Second Edition (New York: Random House, 1978). ISBN 0-394-32179-0.
2. Jerome Stolnitz, *Aesthetics* (New York: Macmillan, 1965). Republished by permission for our course .
3. Stephen Tramel, Editor, *Ways of Knowing: Selected Readings* (Hays, Kansas: FHSU, 2002).
4. Stephen Tramel, WKCP Companion (Hays, Kansas: FHSU, 2002).
5. Videotapes (11)

All of the above materials are available through the University Bookstore at <http://fhsu.bkstore.com/>. Be sure if that you order the correct section for the class (CA, CB, etc.)

## POLICIES:

**Make-up work:** If a student misses deadlines for completion of work, the work may or may not be accepted by the instructor, at his or her discretion. If the late work is accepted, it may be given a lower grade due to its lateness, at the discretion of the instructor.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance, having prepared all assigned work, is expected of each student. When the student must be absent, it is her responsibility to notify the instructor (in advance whenever possible) of the reasons for the absence. Excessive absences may result in a lowered grade.

**Grade of "incomplete":** In all its classes the Department of Philosophy adheres to the FHSU definition of the grade of "I" (Incomplete), which is "work of otherwise passing quality incomplete for adequate reasons, usually beyond the student's control."

**Academic honesty:** All work submitted is expected to be the work of the student submitting it. Any violation of this is grounds for a failing grade for the course, but are not limited to this. For a fuller statement, see [MLS Student Handbook - Special Section on Plagiarism](#)