

SYLLABUS

VIRTUAL COLLEGE VERSION ONLY

IDS 802 Ways of Knowing in Comparative Perspective

Mundane details:

Instructor on videotape *This is not who your instructor is for the course:	Stephen Tramel
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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.

HOW THE COURSE WORKS

The readings, taped lectures, taped guest speakers, and assignments go together. The WKCP Companion is the overall guide for going through these things. There is a website for this class, and you will find the due dates for the various assignments and exams there. You may also use the website for added discussion and for submitting your work. Although there are no particular times of the day or night that you have to be on the website, there are some deadlines that you have to meet. Those are listed in the Course Documents section of the website. The address for the website is <http://blackboard.fhsu.edu/>.

EXAM DETAILS

Upon finding someone to act as your proctor (a professional person in your community, a local librarian, a principal, school counselor, teacher, even your pastor or clergyman), the exams will be sent with instructions to your proctor. Each time you are ready to take a test, you contact your proctor and schedule the date and time. Your proctor then mails your completed exam to the Philosophy Department at FHSU. Personnel in the Philosophy Department can also serve as your proctor.

DUE DATES

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.

Homework 5 - Due about 2 1/2 weeks after Exam 2.

Term Paper - Due about 1 week after Homework 5.

Exam 3 - Due about 1 week after Term Paper.

** Note that due dates for the Summer will be considerably condensed.

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.
4. Stephen Tramel, Editor, *Ways of Knowing: Selected Readings* (Hays, Kansas: FHSU, 2002).
5. Stephen Tramel, WKCP Companion (Hays, Kansas: FHSU, 2002).

Videotapes (10)

All of the above materials are available through MBS Direct at 800-325-3252 or their website at <http://direct.mbsbooks.com/fhsuvc.htm>. Make sure if you order your materials that the starting and ending date shown after your course name on the website are the beginning and ending dates of the semester you are enrolled in. You could order the wrong materials if those dates are not the dates you are enrolled to take the course.

REQUIREMENTS

Work that will receive a grade:

1. Five 100-point homework assignments (two of these are exercises using principles of reasoning, and three are 1000-1250 word essays on assigned subjects).
2. A 200-point term paper (a full description of this project is included in the section which contains homework assignments and practice examinations).
3. A 150-point Examination Over Ways of Knowing in the Sciences
4. A 150-point Examination Over Ways of Knowing in the Arts & Humanities
5. 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)
2. Participating in discussions and raising questions. 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?

Grading Scale:

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

POLICIES

Late Work: Unless the instructor explicitly accepts late submission of work, full credit cannot be earned on work that is submitted after the time that it is due.

Grade of "Incomplete": The instructor 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: It is unjust, illegal, and imprudent to plagiarize or cheat in any other fashion. Students must do their own work. In doing so, they may use other people's words and ideas, but whenever they do so they must, in some obvious and proper way, give full credit to their source. Plagiarism, or any other violation of the university's standards for academic honesty, can result in a report to the appropriate officials and failure in this course. The university's policies governing academic honesty are published in the university catalog.