

IDS 802
Ways of Knowing in Comparative Perspective
SYLLABUS

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.

Objectives of the Course

- To identify how truth/knowledge is determined in the humanities, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences.
- To determine the subject matter and theme of an individual work.
- To recognize the basic principle upon which a work is based.
- To recognize the conclusions of a given work and determine whether the conclusions are warranted.
- To improve the student's ability to differentiate between knowledge and data.
- To recognize how the values of a society affects the search for knowledge.
- To improve the ability to read and write critically and at an advanced level.
- To improve the ability to frame and develop an argument logically dependent on the context.
- To develop the ability to deal with ambiguity in problems which have no right or wrong answers.

Preparation for Comprehensive Exam

It is recommended that you keep notes and texts for this class so that you may use them to prepare for the comprehensive exam. Concepts and material covered here are relevant to questions you'll be asked to address on the exam.

Assignments and Grading

Exams x 2 (200 points)

Two open book essay exams, each of which will cover approximately half of the course material.

Homework Assignments x 4 (400 points)

Four essays on assigned topics. Specific objectives for each assignment are covered in the assignment descriptions.

Group Projects x 3 (60 points)

Three projects to be completed collaboratively in small groups.

Class Discussions x 3 (60 points)

Three class-wide discussions, graded based on participation.

Grading Scale

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

All grades in the margins, e.g., between 89 and 90 percent, will be rounded up if the work was completed on time.

Policies and Procedures

Contacting the instructor

The most efficient way of directly contacting your instructor is through e-mail. You should expect a response to an e-mail sent during the work week within 24 hours. If you send an e-mail over a weekend or holiday, you should expect a response the first full class day after the break. If you do not receive a response in this time frame, you should resend the message. If you prefer voice conversation, your instructor can arrange to speak to you on the phone or via VoIP.

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. No work will be accepted more than a week after the due date unless arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Assignment Turn-In

All assignments for this course are submitted through the Course Blackboard website – through Discussion Board, Groups, or Learning Modules. I will not accept assignments through email, although you should email me for help if you have trouble submitting an assignment in Blackboard and you may attach the assignment to prove that you have done it.

Incompletes

The only circumstances in which an incomplete will be automatically assigned is if a student has satisfactorily completed all of the assignments with the exception of the final exam and provides a valid reason for being unable to complete the final exam on time.

Academic honesty

All submitted material is expected to be the student's work alone, and any deviation from this can lead to failure in the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. It is all too easy to cut and paste from the internet straight into your own document without citing a source. Direct quotations must be in quotation marks. Direct quotations that are not in quotation marks will be considered plagiarized. Paraphrases must also be cited. A first offense of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the assignment. A second offense will result in a U in the course. If you are unsure how to properly cite your sources in your research papers, please consult your instructor

who will help you. For FHSU policy regarding academic honesty, see http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/ .

Students with Special Needs

Contact your instructor about special needs that arise because of your **personal situation**, such as illness, family problems, calls to military service, employment crises, & etc.

If you have a **disability** that may have an impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work and if you wish to seek any accommodations for this course, you must contact the Student Accessibility Services office (SAS). SAS is located in the Kelly Center, Picken Hall, Room 111, 785-628-4401. SAS staff will review your documentation and determine, with you, what academic accommodations are necessary and appropriate. Documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by SAS without your written permission. Students can find more information on the FHSU, SAS website.

Learning Environment, Title IX Information:

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence: sexual violence or harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking.

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of gender and relationship violence, talk to someone at The Kelly Center, the Student Health Center, or the Options Sexual and Domestic Violence Campus Advocate who is housed in the Student Health Center.

If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator. Or, you can report to Residential Life Staff or University Police, which are non-confidential reporters.