

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: Introduction to Epistemology

TERM: January – April 2019 [20191]

PROFESSOR: Dr. Sean Mulrooney

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____

UNLIMITED x

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will look at some of the central problems of epistemology: What is knowledge? How do we get it? And exactly what do we know, anyway? How do we justify our knowledge claims? And how do we respond to the challenges of skepticism and post-modernism? After starting with a historical survey of the answers to these problems, we will examine the answers provided by Bernard Lonergan.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, the student should be able to

1. Describe what knowing is and what the object of knowledge is according to Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume and Derrida.
2. Distinguish commonsense knowing from scientific knowing.
3. Describe and apply Lonergan’s nine steps of cognitional theory to one’s own thought processes.
4. Apply Lonergan’s cognitional theory to the activities of writing essays and running discussions and to the disciplines of law, education and theology.

PREREQUISITES:

None.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lonergan, Bernard. *Understanding and Being: The Halifax Lectures on Insight in Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan*, vol. 5, edd. F. Crowe, E. Morelli, M. Morelli et al. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Class participation		20%
Three 3-page essays	3 x 10% =	30%
A 6-page essay		20%
Final exam		30%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologiae* I, qq. 84-9. New York: Benzinger Brothers, 1947.

Derrida, Jacques. *Deconstruction in a Nutshell: A Conversation with Jacques Derrida*. Ed. John Caputo. New York: Fordham University Press, 1997.

Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy. The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, vol. II. Trans. John Cottingham, Robert Stoothoff and Dugald Murdoch. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

- Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1977.
- Lonergan, Bernard. *Insight: A Study of Human Understanding in Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan*, vol. 3, edd. F. Crowe and R. Doran. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992.
- Lonergan, Bernard. *Understanding and Being: The Halifax Lectures on Insight in Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan*, vol. 5, edd. F. Crowe, E. Morelli, M. Morelli et al. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990.
- Plato. *Phaedo*. Trans. G.M.A. Grube. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1977.
- Tekippe, Terry. *Bernard Lonergan: An Introductory Guide to Insight*. New York and Mahwah, N. J.: Paulist Press, 2003.