

Department: Philosophy

Course number: PHIL 210W

Title: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Donald Baxter

Catalog Copy: -PHIL 210W. Metaphysics and Epistemology. Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: At least one of Phil 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106; Engl 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Open to sophomores or higher.

Topics may include time, personal identity, free-will, the mind-body problem, skepticism, induction, perception, a priori knowledge.

[W Criteria:](#) -The course is currently capped at 20, and will henceforth be capped at 19. The writing assignments require students to offer a sustained argument in favor of a position on a controversial issue, and to rebut standard objections that are offered by those who advocate rival positions. These are exactly the skills which a philosophy course tries to inculcate.

Three five-pages papers are assigned, and of each a first and a final draft must be submitted. Papers count for 75% of the final grade. I offer detailed instructions in class, before the first paper, about the requirements for writing a successful *philosophy* paper. On the first drafts of papers 1 & 2, I write detailed line-by-line comments, dealing both with content and with stylistic and grammatical matters. On the first draft of paper 3, I am required, by the approach of the end of the semester, to content myself with very general

Role of Grad Students: -None