

Grande Prairie Regional College  
PH1020: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality  
Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D.  
Credit: 3 (UT) (3)  
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W.99

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Description: The course covers some of the most important ideas, thinkers and sources in Western thought concerning metaphysics, epistemology, science and religion. The class also will discuss the contemporary manifestations of these insights and issues. Students will write two philosophical essays as well as some brief quizzes in class. There also will be a two-hour final examination (students will be informed of the type and range of questions in order to prepare in advance). Attendance and participation marks are given, based on quality as well as quantity of contribution.

Texts:

Robert Wolff, About Philosophy, 7th ed. Prentice-Hall, 1998.  
James Gould, Classic Philosophical Questions, 9th ed. Prentice-Hall, 1998

Objectives: Students will improve their critical reading and writing abilities, as well as develop an interest in original and creative thought. In order for the class sessions to give the most benefit to the students, they will be expected to have done the assigned reading assigned for each session in advance. Each essay may be re-written once for re-assessment by the instructor.

Outline: Topics/Readings

January 6: Introduction  
8: The Mentor and the Model Wolff, pp. 15-29.

Week Two (11 Jan.): Foundations

11: Genesis (The Bible) Chapters 1-3, 22: 1-19.  
13: Gould, pp. 446-458 (Plato).  
15: Gould, pp. 459-464 (Hume).

Week Three (18 Jan.): Know How you Believe

18: Wolff pp. 254-269, 290-293; Gould, pp. 107-114 (Kierkegaard).  
20: Gould, pp. 100-106 (Pascal).  
22: CCI, pp. RESERVE (Augustine).

Week Four (25 Jan.): Know What you Believe

25: Wolff, pp. 269-290, Gould, pp. 83-88 (Anselm).  
27: Gould, pp. 89-94 (Aquinas).  
29: Gould, pp. 95-99 (Paley).

Week Five (1 Feb.): So What?

1: Wolff, pp. 290-303.  
3: Gould, pp. 116-124 (Hume)  
5: Gould, pp. 125-134 (Hick)

Week Six (8 Feb.): The Birth of an Epistemic Crisis

- 8: Wolff, pp. 304-324.
- 10: Gould, pp. 275-288 (Descartes).
- 12: Gould, pp. 289-304 (Locke).

Week Seven (17, 19 Feb. only): It's All in Your Head?

- 15: Family Day: No class
- 17: Wolff, pp. 324-341.
- 19: Gould, pp. 305-314 (Kant).

Reading Week: 22-26 February.

Week Eight (1 March): It's All in Your Senses?

- 1: Wolff, pp. 342-349.
- 3: Gould, pp. 337-357 (Locke and Hume).
- 5: Gould, pp. 384-418 (Hume and Hanson).

Week Nine (8 March): The Birth of Modern Science

- 8: Wolff, pp. 350-376.
- 10: Wolff, pp. 377-387.
- 12: Gould, pp. 315-336 (Bergson and Ayer).

Week Ten (15 March): What is Truth?

- 15: Gould, pp. 358-366 (Russell).
- 17: Gould, pp. 367-374 (Bradley).
- 19: Gould, pp. 375-383 (James).

Week Eleven (22 March): Reality, One More Time

- 22: Wolff, pp. 390-411.
- 24: Wolff, pp. 412-423.
- 26: Gould, pp. 421-446 (Taylor, Berkeley).

Week Twelve (29 March): Are we still in Crisis, here?

- 29: tba
- 31: tba
- 2: Good Friday

Week Thirteen (5 April): Special Studies

- 5: tba
- 7: tba
- 9: tba

Week Fourteen (12-16 April): Review and Wrap-up