

HILO O H 351 (A01): E I EMOLOG [12494]
FALL 2019

Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:20pm, CLE (Clearihue) A203

Patrick Rysiew

Office Hours: Thursday 11:30

Students' grades will be based on:

- a)! Two mid-term exams (worth 30% each), calling for short essay-style responses. For each exam, students will be given 4 study questions calling for essay-style responses; 3 of these will appear on the exam, and students will have to write a response to two of them.
- b)! Several short in-class quizzes (T/F, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc.). These may or may not be announced ahead of time (10%).
- c)! A final paper (30%). 8-10 pages long; some topics will be suggested. Students may write on a topic of their own design, but only if they obtain the instructor's permission in advance.

Contributions to class discussions may be taken into account in borderline cases – i.e., where a student's final grade is right on the dividing line between grades. Beyond the student's having adequately addressed the topic question(s) on which he/she writes, evaluation of students' written work will be based on: evidence of comprehension of the materials and issues addressed; evidence of original and critical thought with regard to that material; the extent to which the student stakes out a position and provides good reasons and arguments for it; the extent to which the student communicates his/her ideas clearly (using complete and grammatical sentences, correct terms, a clear structure, and so on). For the papers, *the use of outside materials (i.e., any readings not assigned for the course) is prohibited*. All materials used in the papers must be properly cited in the standard way.

Without exception, late papers unaccompanied by a legitimate documented excuse will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day or portion thereof, starting as soon as the due date and time have passed. Should an emergency arise, let the instructor know – ahead of time, if possible. An unexcused absence without a documented excuse on the day of a quiz will result in a score of zero.

The standard University grading scheme will be used. Here is an excerpt from it (the full version is here: <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>):



-Williamson, excerpt from *Knowledge and Its Limits* (CS)

-Nozick, excerpt from *Philosophical Explanations* (CS)

-Dretske, “Epistemic Operators” (CS)

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FOR FIRST MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED THURSDAY SEPT. 26

The Structure of Justification - Foundationalism and Coherentism: A long-standing debate within epistemology, it centers on whether all beliefs owe their justification to other beliefs.

-C: Chapters 4, 5

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THURSDAY OCT. 3

Reliabilism and the Internalism/Externalism Debate: Reliabilism is a recent competitor to ‘internalist’ theories of justification and knowledge. In recent years, the internalism/externalism debate has been a central dispute in contemporary epistemology.

- Kornblith, "Epistemic Normativity" (CS)
- Grimm, "Epistemic Normativity" (CS)

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FOR SECOND MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED THURSDAY NOV. 7
DISTRIBUTED

THURSDAY NOV. 14

Feminist Epistemology: In some ways allied with naturalistic approaches (as well as themes within social epistemology), feminist theory has challenges various assumptions of traditional epistemology.