

Philosophy 251 (A01): Knowledge, Certainty and Skepticism
FALL 2020

Scheduled class times

Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:20

Professor

Patrick Rysiew

Office Hours: Format and time TBA

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*This course will combine synchronous and asynchronous elements. The lecture materials will be delivered asynchronously –

- b) A cumulative, open-book final exam (25%).
- c) Several short assignments (20%). Students must write at least 4 of these, but can do up to 6. (The top 4 will be counted.) Topic questions will be distributed at start of a given week; students will have until the end of the week to complete them.
- d) Participation in Thursday discussion sessions (10%). The emphasis here is on *attending* (virtually) the minimum number of such sessions. Details to be announced as the term approaches.

The short papers might also be thought of as take-home exams. You will be given questions calling for short, essay-style responses. You will have some choice in which you answer. Your response should be concise, well-structured, and to the point; it must be between 800 and 1000 words in total length. The short essays will be explained further when the first topics are distributed.

Beyond the student's having adequately addressed the topic question(s) on which he/she writes, evaluation of the short assignments, essays

A-	7	80 – 84	case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
B+	6	77 – 79	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
B	5	73 – 76	
B-	4	70 – 72	