EPISTEMOLOGY is the branch of philosophy that asks questions about human knowledge. These questions, which are the focus of this course, include: How do you know what you know? How do you know that an external world exists? How do you know you’re not dreaming as you read this? What counts as knowledge? How can you be sure you actually know something, or anything? How can we justify what we claim to know? Is knowledge based on our senses? Is it innate? For potential answers to these questions, we’ll examine works by ancient, modern, and twentieth-century thinkers, including Plato, Sextus Empiricus, Descartes, Hume, Moore, and Nagel.

PRE-REQUISITE: one 100-level philosophy course (such as Basic Philosophical Questions).

REQUIREMENTS: 2 papers; pop quizzes; regular class participation; three exams.

REQUIRED TEXTS: