



## Epistemology | PIP77082

Year	MPhil
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	Hilary Term
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Paul O'Grady
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### Module Outline:

This module begins with a survey of major trends in 20<sup>th</sup> century epistemology and moves on to focus specifically on Virtue Epistemology as a research project flourishing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It then focuses on the specific virtue of wisdom, regarded as the highest epistemic goal for much of ancient and medieval philosophy, but disappearing in the modern period. The main strands of current virtue epistemology will be examined and competing contemporary accounts of wisdom will be assessed. The module ends with exploring how virtue epistemology and wisdom can illuminate the topics of philosophy as a way of life and philosophy and biography.

### Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to explain and contextualize the rise of contemporary virtue epistemology, distinguish and evaluate the different kinds available and critically assess the viability of this approach to epistemology.

Students will be able to analyse the concept of wisdom, demonstrate its epistemological significance and apply it to issues such as the relation of philosophy to the life of the philosopher.

### Assessment:

This module is assessed by one 3000-word coursework essay. The word-count is inclusive of footnotes but not of the bibliography.



## Recommended Reading List:

A detailed reading list will be provided with readings assigned to each seminar.

However, we will discuss the following:

Many of the papers are contained in:

Sosa, E., Kim J., Fantl, J., McGrath, M. (eds.) (2008) *Epistemology: An Anthology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Oxford: Blackwell. [A]

Baehr, J. (2014), "Sophia", in *Virtues And Their Vices*, Timpe, K. Boyd, C. (eds.) Oxford, OUP.

Chisholm, R., (1964) "The Myth of the Given", in A #7

Greco, J., (2010) *Achieving Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Greco, J., and Turri, J., (2011), "Virtue Epistemology", *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Greco, J., and Turri, J., (2012), *Virtue Epistemology: Contemporary Readings*, Cambridge Ma: MIT Press

Grimm, Stephen, R., (2014), "Wisdom", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.

Kekes, J., (2020) *Wisdom: A Humanistic Conception*, Oxford, OUP.

O'Grady, P. (2018), "Grimm Wisdom" *Annals of Philosophy*, 66 (1) 415 - 431

O'Grady, P. (2023) "Aquinas on Wisdom", *New Blackfriars*, Vol.104, (n.1113), p726 – 750

O'Grady, P. (2024) "Philosophy and Biography", *Metaphilosophy*, 55, (3), p328 - 337

Quine, W.V. (1990), *Pursuit of Truth*, Cambridge Ma: Harvard University Press.

Roberts, R. and Wood, W., (2007) *Intellectual Virtues*, Oxford: OUP

Russell, B. (1912/1967), *The Problems of Philosophy*, Oxford: OUP.

Ryan, Sharon, (1999) "What is Wisdom?" *Philosophical Studies*, 93 (2)

Sosa, E. (1980), "The Raft and the Pyramid" in A #13

Sosa, E. (2003) "The Place of Truth in Epistemology" in A #36

Tiberius, V., (2008) *The Reflective Life: Living Wisely Within Our Limits*, Oxford OUP.

Zagzebski, L., (1996) *Virtues of the Mind*, Cambridge: CUP, [excerpts in A#33].

Zagzebski, L., (1994), "The Inescapability of Gettier Problems", in A#17.