

PIP77082 — Epistemology

Module Information	
Module Code	PIP77082
Module Title	Epistemology
Department	Philosophy
Module Personnel	Professor Paul O'Grady
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	1x 2-hour lecture per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This module begins with a survey of major trends in 20th century epistemology and moves on to focus specifically on Virtue Epistemology as a research project flourishing in the 21st 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.
Module Learning Aims	
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.

Module Content

Indicative Reading / Resources

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*, 2nd 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.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	One 3,000-word coursework essay. The word-count is inclusive of footnotes but not of the bibliography.
Assessment Details	

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	