

## **PHIL2620: Introduction to Epistemology**

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### **Course description**

Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that deals with questions about knowledge, justification, rationality, and the like. The first part of the course will be devoted to discuss some classical problems of traditional epistemology, like external world skepticism and the internalism vs externalism debate about epistemic justification, and emphasize how these topics can help us better understand pressing societal issues, like current skepticism about climate change and the justification status of beliefs that have been influenced by bad ideology. The second part of the course will be devoted to discuss recent debates in social epistemology, such as epistemic injustice, standpoint epistemology, social ignorance, fake news, and echo chambers – topics that can give us insights about how social characteristics (like gender, race, class, etc.) and social phenomena more generally affect what we know and ignore, as well as how these knowledge and ignorance can sustain or ameliorate systems of oppression and injustice.

No background in philosophy is required for this course.