

# PHIL3072

## Advanced Analytic Philosophy

---

### Course Description

Epistemology is the study of the nature and grounds of knowledge and its extent. *Empiricism*, broadly construed, is the view that sensory experience is (a) the source of human ideas or concepts, (b) the basis for justifying knowledge claims and/or (c) what is expressed by meaningful utterances.

Empiricism, when characterised as (b), is central to modern scientific methods. According to this view, mathematics provides models and evidence for claims about a mind-independent physical world, and these claims are justified by patterns of sensory observation, elicited by carefully constructed experiments. However, scientific theories often posit *unobservable* entities (e.g. atoms, electrons, quarks) to explain changes in observable phenomena. Moreover, they standardly generalise beyond *particular* patterns of sensory observation to *general* truths about the natural, physical world. These tendencies are in tension with empirical methods for justifying knowledge claims. How can scientific theories provide *empirical knowledge* about the natural, physical world if they employ scientific methods based in an empiricist epistemology?

This course will investigate this tension via the historical development of empiricism and challenges that have been raised against it: from the British Empiricism of Locke and Berkeley to the 20<sup>th</sup> century positivism of Ernst Mach and the logical positivism of Hempel, Neurath, Ayer, Schlick and Carnap. We will distinguish various forms of empiricism and critically examine their arguments. We will also consider some of the major challenges that have been posed to this theory, with a particular focus on Quine.

<b>Course Convener</b>	Jason Grossman
Office Location	Coombs 3215
Office Hours	Tuesday 2 pm
Email	<a href="mailto:jason.grossman@anu.edu.au">jason.grossman@anu.edu.au</a>
Phone	

<b>Workload</b>	2 hours of lectures a week, plus 1 hour of tutorials (weeks 2-13), plus 7 hours a week private study and assessment preparation
-----------------	---

**Lecture:** Tuesday 10-12pm (LAW G14)

**Tutorial:** Tuesday 1-2pm (Coombs SRC)

### Required Resources

All course materials will be made available on Wattle.

SEMESTER 1  
2015

<http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/PHIL3072>

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with some of the most important ideas in contemporary analytic philosophy
2. Argue for a philosophical position related to the material covered in the course.
3. Display skill in writing research papers in philosophy.

### Assessment Summary

Assessment Task	Value	Due Date	<i>Linked Learning Outcomes (optional)</i>
1. First Essay (2,500 words)	45%		<i>Learning Outcomes 1,2,3</i>
2. Second Essay (2,500 words)	45%		<i>Learning Outcomes 1,2,3</i>
3. Class Participation	10%		<i>Learning Outcomes 1,2</i>

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Class Participation

Participation will be assessed by your active participation in tutorials.

### Essays

You will be required to write two essays as part of this course.

**First Essay (45%): Due 5 pm, Wednesday 8 September (provisional date, to be confirmed in the first week of semester)**

You will be required to write an essay of 2,500 words in length. The essay topics will be advised in class.

**Second Essay (45%): Due 5 pm, Friday 13 November**

You will be required to write an essay of 2,500 words in length. The essay topics will be advised in class.

## ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

**Online Submission:** The essays are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.

### Extension and Special Consideration Policy

No extensions will be granted for this course except in cases where students have applied for a Special Education Plan with Disability services (for this to apply, the student must also approach the course convener before the piece of assessment is due). Students may apply for special consideration in extenuating circumstances for the marking of an assessment item. All requests must

be made on the special consideration application form and lodged, with supporting documentation, to the special consideration office. Information can be found here:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/special-assessment-consideration>

### **Late Policy & Additional Penalties**

There is a 5% per calendar day penalty for work that is late without an extension. Late essays will be accepted up to, but not beyond, 1 week after the original due date. Any work that is 5% over or under the assigned word count will be penalized at a rate of 5% of your essay mark *for each 5%* that it is over or under the word count.

### **Referencing Requirements**

Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. Any referencing style may be used but references must include (at least) the authors name, year of publication, **and the page where the quote can be located**. A bibliography is also required listing all of the material both cited in the essay and used to help form your thoughts.

Example of in-text citation: "quotation." (Tillemans, 2012, p.12)

Example of footnote citation:

(from article) Georges Dreyfus, "Meditation as Ethical Activity", *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, Volume 2, Issue 1 (1998); p.18

(from book) Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Mary McGregor ed. (Cambridge University Press, 1998); p.7

### **Academic Dishonesty (Plagiarism or Cheating):**

ANU does not tolerate cheating or assisting others to cheat and views cheating on coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that you submit for grading must be your own work, reflecting your learning in the course. Any student found forging, plagiarizing, cheating or assisting others to cheat on any assignment will receive a failing grade.

Plagiarism is taking and using as your own the work or thoughts of another person. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the internet. Acknowledgement is usually done by providing a reference (either in a footnote or in brackets in the text) to where the material can be found.

If you prepare for essays by copying out sentences or passages from texts and lectures, make sure to keep a clear record for yourself of where the material comes from, and of what is quotation and what is your own summary or comment. Anything that is quoted should be indented or appear within quotation marks. Simply pasting together passages, or close summaries of passages, from things you have been reading (whether these are texts, suggested reading, lecture handouts or internet sources) can amount to plagiarism. Even if you give references in footnotes and in your Bibliography, and are not intending to deceive the lecturer into thinking that you have thought and said these things yourself, you will be penalized for this sort of essay preparation. The lecturer cannot give you a grade for your ability in the course unless you can put things into your own words, to show your own understanding of what is being said. Please familiarize yourself with, and follow, the University's Academic Honesty Policy:

<http://academichonesty.anu.edu.au/index.html>

<http://cass.anu.edu.au/current-students/rules-and-policies>

### **Policy for Students with Disabilities or Special Needs:**

Please see the course co-ordinator prior to course commencement if you have any documented disabilities or special needs. They will be happy to work with you as necessary to make this a valuable learning experience and advise you on alternative options if you are unable to meet the course requirements.

## **Academic Skills and Learning Centre (ASLC):**

Your writing, both in exams and papers, is expected to be both grammatically sound and stylistically appropriate. If you are having trouble in this regard, the Academic Skills and Learning Centre (ASLC) offers ANU students free and confidential help with their academic work through individual consultations, workshops, courses, podcasts and handouts. The ASLC is located on the lower ground floor of the Pauline Griffin Building and is only closed on weekends and public holidays.  
<https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/>

## **Feedback**

### **Staff Feedback**

Students will be given feedback in the following forms in this course:

- verbal feedback in tutorials and lectures
- written individual feedback on essays
- individual feedback in office hours of tutor and/or lecturer

### **Student Feedback**

ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. The feedback given in these surveys is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching, and opportunities for improvement. For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on the feedback provided on ANU courses, go to:

<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/> and  
<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*This schedule is subject to change to meet the needs of the class.*

Week/Lecture		Summary of Activities	Authors
1	21 July	Introduction	Galileo
<b>Tutorials start in Week 2</b>			
2	28 July	British Empiricism 'Knowledge' - What is it?	Locke
3	4 August		Berkeley
4	11 August	Early Positivism: Posits & Foundations	Russell
5	18 August		Hacking Popper
6	25 August	Logical Positivism: Verificationism, Foundationalism and Coherence	Hempel Neurath Schlick Carnap
7	1 Sept		
<b>Mid-Semester Break (2 weeks)</b>			

8	22 Sept	Logical Positivism: Verificationism, Foundationalism and Coherence	Schlick Carnap
9	29 Sept	Theory and Observation in Science	Maxwell Hanson
10	6 October	Quine vs. Carnap	Quine Price
11	13 October	Post-Positivist Challenges	Yablo Davidson Sellars
12	20 October		Putnam Fine
13	27 October	Recap	

PDFs of the required readings and additional recommended readings are available on the course Wattle site.