**PROPOSAL TITLE:** New Course: Knowledge & Reality II

**CHECK APPROPRIATE:**
- UNDERGRADUATE
- GRADUATE
- SEMESTER HOURS

**SPONSOR(S):**

- K Cell
- D Clancy

**DEPARTMENT/TELEPHONE #**

**CHECK ONE:**
- COURSE
- MINOR PROGRAM
- CONCENTRATION
- SPECIALIZATION
- ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE
- CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
- MAJOR PROGRAM

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### Step #1 (Department)

**10/24/97**

Approved (Date)

Not Approved (Date)

**Dave Clancy**

Dept. Curriculum Chr.

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### Step #2 (Receipt)

**SCC# 97-98-030**

2-5-98

Date Received Senate

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### Step #3 (School)

Reviewed Date: 1/27/98

- Recommend to Approved
- Recommend NOT to Approve
- Forward for Open Hearing

**Joe Wilfahrb**

School Committee Chair

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### Step #4 (Academic Dean)

- Recommended
- NOT Recommended
- Conditionally Recommended (See Comments)

Comments:

Dean Signature/Date

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### Step #5 (Senate Curriculum Committee)

Open Hearing Date

Approved by Curriculum Committee Date

Returned to Sponsor(s) for the following reason:

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### Step #6 (Senate)

Date announced/voted on at Senate

If voted on

Approved

NOT Approved

Dr. awarded to Executive Vice President/Provost

Senate Curriculum Committee chair Signature/Date:
Major Curriculum Change
New Course: Knowledge and Reality II
Course Syllabus

Philosophy 1509.2XX
Knowledge and Reality II
3 s.h.

1. **Details:**

   A. **Course Title:** Knowledge and Reality II

   B. **Sponsors:** David Clowney and Howard Cell, Department of Philosophy and Religion

   C. **Credit Hours:** 3

   D. **Course Level:** Undergraduate (sophomore or above)

   E. **Curricular Effect:** This course is required for students in the philosophy track of the Philosophy and Religion Studies major. It will be a designated elective for those in the religion track, and for philosophy minors. Finally, it will be available to all students as a humanities elective.

   F. **Prerequisites:** none

   G. **Implementation:**

   1. **Time of implementation:** This course and its companion, "Knowledge and Reality I," will replace our current "Survey of Western Philosophy" course in the fall of 1998, in connection with the beginning of our proposed major in Philosophy and Religion.

   2. **Scale of implementation:** Initially we will offer one section of this course each spring, and one section of its companion course, "Knowledge and Reality I," each fall. If there is sufficient demand we will offer more sections. If demand is less, we will offer the two courses in alternate years.

   H. **Adequacy:**
1. Staffing: All three full-time faculty members on the philosophy side of the department are qualified to teach this course.

2. Library facilities and holdings, and other relevant resources: The library's collection, including many titles ordered by the Philosophy and Religion Department over the past ten years and supplemented by future additions, will continue to be adequate for this undergraduate course.

3. Space needs: One classroom with blackboards and seating for thirty-five students will be needed each semester.

II. Rationale:

The discipline of philosophy may be approached by systematic attention to the various questions it raises, as well as by engagement with the various thinkers who have been prominent in its history. These two approaches complement one another, our faculty have often combined them when teaching such courses as Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Ethics. As we prepare to begin our proposed major in Philosophy and Religion Studies, we have felt the need to include more of the history of philosophy within the philosophy track. At the same time, we want to expose our students to the systematic study of epistemology and metaphysics, two of the essential sub-disciplines of philosophy. And we must limit the number of required philosophy courses to an essential core to allow room for the interdisciplinary and applied focus courses that all majors will take. Our solution to this challenge is "Knowledge and Reality I & II", a two semester sequence in which particular issues in metaphysics and epistemology will be examined through the study of classic philosophical texts. While instructors will have some freedom in their choice of texts, the range of choices will be historically delimited. The first course will focus on ancient and medieval western philosophy, and the second on modern and contemporary western philosophy. At the option of the instructor, some Asian or other non-western philosophy may be included as supplementary material in both courses. However, the focus will be on western philosophy. Other philosophical traditions will receive focussed attention in other courses.

While students in the philosophy track of our major will be required to take these two courses, the course is not for majors alone. It will be valuable to other students as well. Epistemological and metaphysical issues lie at the heart of every academic discipline. Thus students in the humanities, the physical and social sciences, and in
the arts will be helped to think radically about their disciplines by taking either of these two courses.

No other courses now offered at Rowan cover the material that these two courses will cover. However, we have solicited comments from other faculty who wish to encourage their students to take them.

The study of philosophy develops students' abilities to speak and write effectively, and to think clearly, critically, and self-reflectively about what they know and how they know it. Students who take this course will read a variety of classic modern and contemporary philosophical texts. They will also attempt to engage in philosophy themselves. Given the broad applicability of this subject matter and the participatory and Socratic pedagogical methods that will frequently be used, this course will increase students' understanding of the complexity of philosophical issues, their relevance to various areas of study and undertakings, and contribute to their ability to partake in and respect the participation of others in free inquiry. While filling an important need for our majors and minors, the course is also appropriate for students at any level from sophomore to senior.

III  Essence of the Course

A  Objectives  Students will

-- Become familiar with the thought of representative western philosophers from the modern and contemporary periods about concepts and questions central to the philosophical disciplines of metaphysics and epistemology, including what humans know, how we know it, what knowledge is and how knowledge claims can be justified, the nature of reality, the existence of God and the soul, time and space, mind and body, universals and particulars, and the like.

-- Grow in their ability to interpret and interact with classic philosophical texts and arguments

-- Develop and refine their own views about the questions raised in the course

B  Course Content

The course will typically include the following elements, not necessarily in this order:

-- The reading of selected texts on metaphysics and epistemology by western philosophers from the modern and contemporary periods. (At the option of the instructor, texts from Asian and other philosophical traditions
may also be included, although these will never provide the main content of the course.

-- Readings or lectures providing some sense of the historical development of philosophy in the west during modern and contemporary times.

-- Opportunities for students to do philosophy themselves by writing papers, engaging in class discussions, and developing their own arguments for philosophical positions.

-- Exploration of the relation of philosophy to such conditions of human existence as birth, death, sex, gender, race, class, and political power, and to such other human activities as science, religion and the arts.

C. Evaluation and Grading Procedures.

Student performance will be assessed by written examinations, class participation, in-class presentations, and individual or group projects. The particular mix of such devices will be at the discretion of the instructor.

D. Course Evaluation.

This course will be reevaluated by the Philosophy/Religion department at least every other year. The review will take into account student evaluations of the course, reactions to the course from various other departments, and the views of the instructors who have taught the course. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that Knowledge and Reality II continues to meet the objectives of general education, of the Philosophy minor and projected Philosophy/Religion Studies major, of the college and of the course itself as specified above.

IV. Results of Consultations.
V. Bibliography: Includes works from which class readings might be selected and resources for further student reading, as well as resources for faculty who plan and teach the course.

Aune, Bruce, Kant's Theory of Morals (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979)
_________________________, Studies in the Philosophy of Kant (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1965)
_________________________, Kant's Analytic (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1966)
_________________________, Kant's Dialectic (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1974).
Cassirer, Ernst, Rousseau, Kant, Goethe (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1945)
Chisholm, Roderick, ed. Realism and the Background of Phenomenology (Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1960)
_________________________, The Existentialists: A Critical Study, (Chicago: Regnery, 1952)
Dilworth, David, Philosophy from a World Perspective (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989)

Frankfurt, Harry, Leibniz: A Collection of Critical Essays (Garden City: Doubleday Anchor, 1972)


Greene, Marjorie, Philosophy In and Out of Europe (Berkeley. University of California Press, 1976)


Mohanty, Harendranath N., Hummel and Frege (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1982)


Quine, Willard Van Orman, *Word and Object: From a Logical Point of View*


Catalog Description

New Course: Knowledge and Reality II
1509.2??

This course addresses questions about the nature of reality, and the nature and possibility of knowledge, through the examination of selected texts by modern and contemporary philosophers.