

## **Recent Analytic Work on Understanding**

**Instructors** David Weberman ([webermand@ceu.edu](mailto:webermand@ceu.edu))

**Office Hours:** Tu 13:15-15:30, Th 11:45-13.30 and by appt in office room D-407

**Credits:** 2 US/4 ECTS

**Semester:** Fall 2023

**Meeting time:** Wed 13:30-15:10 in room TBA

**Course status:** no prerequisites, MA/PhD elective

**Course description:** The point of departure is the suspicion that the notion of understanding is unjustly neglected by mainstream epistemology (past and present) whose central focus is knowledge. We'll begin by considering why this might be so. Then we will move on to consider just how understanding is conceived by various recent philosophers. Is it propositional? Is it directed at the same items as knowledge? Is it similar to know-how? Is it reducible to either propositional knowledge or know-how? Readings are drawn from both analytic philosophy, all of which is quite recent.

**Learning outcomes:** The course has two main goals: 1) acquiring the skills needed to grasp and assess the texts and to formulate one's own arguments and views on the topic and 2) acquiring a deeper knowledge and understanding of the issues, positions and arguments. By the end of the course, students will have learned a good deal about the concepts of knowledge, know-how, understanding as they occur in recent analytic philosophy.

**Requirements and assignments:** Students are required to attend classes and to do the assigned reading prior to class. They are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion. Required: For all students except auditors: one 10-minute in-class oral response to the material (not a summary of the reading but focusing on and responding to a single point) and one 2000 word term paper. For 2-year Philosophy MAs, end-of-year core essay exam. Most important criteria in grading term papers: clarity, originality, depth and coherence. Participation counts for 10%.

### **Provisional Weekly Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Week 1: Wed Sep 20** Introduction; Moravcsik on Plato's epistemology

**Week 2: Wed Sep 27** Zagzebski and Elgin on the turn from knowledge to understanding

**Week 3: Wed Oct 4** Kvanvig and Pritchard on the turn from knowledge to understanding

**Week 4: Wed Oct 11** Propositional Knowledge, Know-how and understanding

**Week 5: Wed Oct 18** Hetherington on knowing how

**Week 6: Wed Oct 25** Grimm on understanding

**Week 7: no class due to Nov 1 holiday**

**Week 8: Wed Nov 8** Alison Hills on Knowing and Understanding Why

**Week 9: Wed Nov 15** Is Understanding Reducible to Knowledge? Lynch and Ross

**Week 10: Wed Nov 22** Linguistic Understanding

**Week 11: Wed Nov 29** Scientific and Social Scientific Understanding

**Week 12: Wed Dec 6** Aesthetic Understanding