Everybody has opinions. They’re easy to have. The problem, though, is that opinions are often false or mistaken. In sharp contrast to mere opinion is knowledge. Not everybody has knowledge. Knowledge is much harder to have because it guarantees truth—you cannot be wrong about you know.

This course explores how to understand knowledge by investigating three distinct but related topics:

a) The nature of knowledge (what distinguishes knowledge from mere opinion?),

b) The value of knowledge (why is it better to have knowledge as opposed to mere opinion?), and

c) The ways of acquiring knowledge (how do we gain knowledge instead of mere opinion?).

To aide our investigation, we will read both historical and cutting-edge work in epistemology, the branch of philosophy concerned with truth and evidence. The course will culminate in a final project where students develop their own personal manifesto about how and why to pursue knowledge in a society brimming with mistaken opinions.