

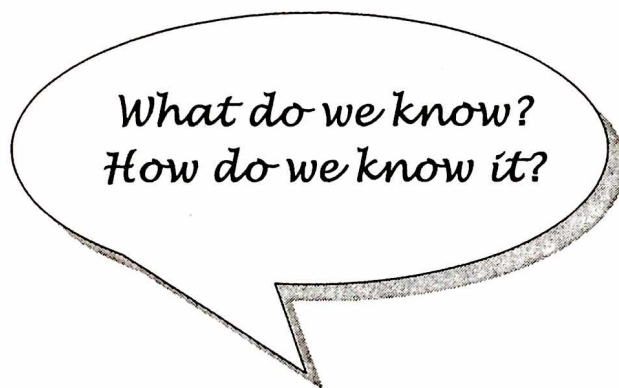
# Centering

## Course Description:

What is “Centering”?

I’m sure most of you have been asking this question since you received your class schedules over the summer. It is an interesting name for a class — and, as you will see, it will be a very interesting class! How can I describe what we will do in here? Let’s see...

Centering is the class where we ask the **big** questions. Here are two that we will be asking regularly:



The academic word for this line of questioning is **Epistemology**, which means the *science of knowledge*.

It’s unusual in the sense that in most classes, and in most schools, we don’t really get to ask *how we know what we know*. We’re so busy learning the facts! In one school day we do so much: we memorize the Periodic Table of Elements; we analyze the plays of William Shakespeare; we calculate the slope of a perpendicular line. Centering class will be the time in your day where you pause and say...

*Wait a minute! How do I know that any of the stuff I’m learning is really true? Can we really know what happened hundreds of years ago? Did William Shakespeare really write these plays? Does it matter if he didn’t? Can we ever really know what the truth is?*

As you can tell, we will be asking a lot of questions! That is the goal of Centering — to encourage questioning, thinking, and communication, on all topics that relate to your life as a student, a member of your community, and a citizen of the world. At times you might find these sorts of questions difficult, but you will also see that they are fun and worthwhile. Most of us have opinions on these sorts of issues and they only become revised and refined through personal reflection and class conversation.