Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

ALASTAIR CROSBY

BMus (University of Victoria, 2008)
BA(Hon) (University of Victoria, 2013)

“Social Intercourse and Social Epistemology from
Thomas Reid”s Point of View”

Department of Philosophy

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
2:00 P.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B315

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Patrick Rysiew, Department of Philosophy, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Margaret Cameron, Department of Philosophy, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Paul Wood, Department of History, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Department of Psychology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
The first aim is to present the correct interpretation of Thomas Reid’s (1710-96) social epistemology. The second is to use Reid’s insights on these matters to help make some progress on a related contemporary philosophical problem. In the first chapter, I present and argue for an original interpretation of Reid’s account of the social operations. In the second, I do the same with respect to Reid’s account of testimony (a particular species of social operation) and its epistemology. In the third, I discuss a contemporary debate between epistemic individualists and epistemic socialists. I point out that the theorists engaged in that debate assume that epistemic individualism and epistemic socialism are inconsistent positions. I then consider the debate from Reid’s perspective, and, in doing so, show how the two positions might be reconciled.