

PHIL3820 Epistemology 知識論
Course Outline

Time :	W 10:30-12:15	Location :	LSK 306
Tutorial time to be arranged			

Course overview

This course aims to introduce the basic concepts, issues and theories in Epistemology. The topics to be discussed include different theories of truth, different types of skepticism and some responses, the traditional definition of knowledge, the Gettier Problem and some responses, externalism (about knowledge and justification) and internalism, foundationalism and coherentism. This course assumes a certain level of analytical and logical skills. Students are expected to engage in critical, analytical and argumentative evaluation of the theories and arguments in Epistemology encountered in this course.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- understand the basic concepts in Epistemology.
- demonstrate familiarity with the major issues and prominent theses and positions in Epistemology.
- appreciate the main concerns and the nature of the major issues in Epistemology.
- acquire skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in Epistemology.
- enhance the ability of logical reasoning and argumentation and that of philosophical analysis.

Topics

1. Introduction: What is epistemology?
2. Truth
3. Skepticism (I)—High Standards Skepticism
4. The Traditional Analysis of Knowledge
5. The Gettier Problem
6. Some responses to the Gettier Problem
7. Skepticism (II)—Ordinary Standards Skepticism
8. Skepticism (III)—The Closure Principle
9. Internalism and Externalism
10. Foundationalism
11. Coherentism

Learning activities

Learning activities of this course include lectures, tutorials, reading essays, writing a term paper and final examination:

1. Lecture: 2 hours a week (mandatory).
2. Tutorial class: one two-hour session every two weeks (mandatory).
3. Term paper writing.
4. Preparation for the final examination.

In this course, students are required to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to read assigned essays before the lectures and study tutorial materials, usually consisting of assigned essays or book chapters, before the tutorial classes.

Students are also expected to devote sufficient time to the writing of the term paper throughout the whole course. Surveying and reading the relevant literature and analyzing the materials are essential to the production of a satisfactory term paper.

Students should be able to develop and enhance their analytical and argumentative skills through discussion in tutorials and classroom and writing the term paper.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tutorial presentation and participation	25%
Term paper	35%
Final examination	40%

Recommended learning resources

There will be a comprehensive set of lecture notes for the course. Recommended readings will be selected from a wide range of books, journals and anthologies. These are important references:

Alston W., *Epistemic Justification*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1989.

Audi, R. *Epistemology*. 2nd edn. London: Routledge 2003.

Bonjour, L. and Sosa, E. *Epistemic Justification*. Oxford: Blackwell 2003.

Bernecker, S. *Epistemology—selected tests with interactive commentary*. Oxford: Blackwell 2006.

Chisholm, R. M. *Theory of Knowledge*. 3rd edition. NJ: Prentice Hall 1989.

Dancy, J. *Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology*. Oxford: Blackwell 1985.

Dancy, J. and Sosa, E. (eds.). *A Companion to Epistemology*. 2nd edn. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell 2010.

Feldman, R. *Epistemology*. NJ: Prentice Hall 2003.

Fumerton, R. *Epistemology*. Oxford: Blackwell 2006.

Goldman, A. *Epistemology and Cognition*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1986.

Greco, J. and Sosa, E. *The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology*. Oxford: Blackwell 1999.

Hamlyn, D. W. *The Theory of Knowledge*. London: Macmillian 1970.

Hetherington, S. C. *Knowledge Puzzles*. Oxford: Westview 1996.

Horwich, P. *Truth*. Oxford: Clarendon 1998.

Lehrer, K. *Theory of Knowledge*. London: Routledge 1990.

Moser, P. (ed.) *Empirical Knowledge*. 2nd revised edn. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield 1996.

Nozick, R. *Philosophical Explanations*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1981.

Pappas, G. and Swain, M. (eds.). *Essays on Knowledge and Justification*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1978.

Pollock, J. and Cruz, J. *Contemporary Theories of Knowledge*. 2nd edn. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield 1999.

Pojman L. (ed.), *The Theory of Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 3rd edn. Wadsworth: 1996/2003.

Putnam, H. *Reason, Truth and History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1981.

Quine, W. V. *From a Logical Point of View*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1980.

Shope, R. K. *The Analysis of Knowing. A Decade of Research*. NJ: Princeton University Press 1983.

Stroud, B. *The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism*. Oxford: OUP 1994.

White, A. R. *Truth*. London: Macmillian 1971.

Williamson, T. *Knowledge and Its Limits*. Oxford: OUP 2002.

Course schedule [you may want to modify the format of this part to suit your needs; e.g., a separate, detailed list for tutorials might be preferred]

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	1. Introduction: What is epistemology?			
2	2. Truth			
3	3. Skepticism (I)			
4	4. Traditional Analysis of Knowledge 5. The Gettier Problem			
5	5. The Gettier Problem			
6	6. Some responses to the Gettier Problem			
7	6. Some responses to the Gettier Problem			
8	7. Skepticism (II)			
9	8. Skepticism (III)			
10	9. Internalism and Externalism			

11	9. Internalism and Externalism			
12	10. Foundationalism			
13	10. Foundationalism 11. Coherentism)	
14	11. Coherentism			

Details of course website

We use WebCT for this course. Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes) will be posted regularly on the website.

Feedback for evaluation

1. Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communication to teacher or tutor in class, by email, posting comments and questions to the eLearning platform, or during tutorials.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
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