Topics:

1. Introduction
2. The Tripartite Analysis of Knowledge
3. The Gettier Problem
4. The Structure of Knowledge: Foundationalism
5. The Structure of Knowledge: Coherentism
6. The Externalism-Internalism Debate and Reliablism
7. Skepticism I: Descartes, Certainty, and Fallibilism
8. Skepticism II: Closure and Contextualism: causal theory, Truth Tracking, Reliablism

Important points to note:

- Tutorials are mandatory.
- Though no attendance will be taken, you are expected to attend all lectures. You are also required to read the assigned readings for each topic.
- Examination questions will cover the lectures (not just the notes), readings, and tutorial materials.

Assessment:

Course grading will be based on the following:

1. Continuous assessment (class participation but mainly tutorials): tutorial presentations, discussion, synopses, and post-tutorial reports. Guidelines on tutorials will be given in the first briefing session of tutorials.
2. Term Examination
3. Term Essay

Major Texts:

1. Sosa, E. & Kim, J., Epistemology: An Anthology
2. Feldman, R., Epistemology
3. Bonjour, L., Epistemology
4. Dancy, J., Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology

* Please be advised that this is only a preliminary outline. A final version of the course outline will be distributed in the first lecture session. In case of any discrepancy between this version and the final version, the latter shall prevail.
Reading Lists (Required and Further)

- ‘#’ means “available for online access at CUHK Library”.
- Required items not accessible online at Library can be downloaded from Blackboard.
- Items marked with ‘*’ in ‘Further Readings’ can be downloaded from Blackboard.

Abbreviations

[Audi]: Robert Audi, Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge.
[Bernecker & Dretske]: Sven Bernecker & Fred Dretske, Knowledge: Reading in Contemporary Epistemology.
[Chisholm]: Roderick Chisholm, Theory of Knowledge (3rd ed.)
[Dancy & Sosa]: J. Dancy; M. Steup, A Companion to Epistemology (1993) #
[Dancy]: Jonathan Dancy, Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology
[Feldman]: Richard Feldman, Epistemology
[Greco & Sosa]: Blackwell Guide to Epistemology #
[Huemer]: M. Huemer Epistemology: Contemporary Readings
[Lehrer]: Keith Lehrer, Theory of Knowledge (2nd ed.)
[Moser]: Paul Moser, The oxford Handbook of Epistemology. #
[SEP] Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (online)
[Sosa & Kim]: Epistemology: An Anthology
[Step & Sosa]: Contemporary Debates in Epistemology.
[Williams]: Michael Williams, Problems of Knowledge.

Required Readings

I. & II Introduction and Traditional Analysis of Knowledge

2. [Chisholm]: Ch.1
3. L. Zagzebski; ‘What is Knowledge’ (Section 1-3), in [Greco] pp. 92-104

III. The Gettier Problem

1. [Feldman]: chapter 3. Chapter 5: 5.1
3. [Dancy] Ch. 2.

IV. Foundationalism

1. The entry ‘Externalism/Internalism’ (written by Bonjour) in [Dancy & Sosa]
2. [Feldman]: Ch. 4 (‘Evidentialist Theories of Knowledge and Justification’).
3. [Dancy] Ch. 4 (‘Foundationalism’).
4. Alan Goldman’s entry on "Given, the" in [Dancy & Sosa].

V. Coherentism
1. [BonJour]: Chapter 9, ‘Foundationalism and coherentism’.
2. [Chisholm]: Chapter 10: ‘Foundationalism and the coherence theory’. (Chisholm’s book is a good example of pithy writing. This chapter is only 5 pages only.)

VI. Externalism
1. [BonJure]: Chapter 10, ‘Internalism and externalism’.
2. [Feldman]: Chapter 5, ‘Non-evidentialist theories of knowledge and Justification’.

VII. Skepticism
1. [Feldman]: Chapter 6, ‘Skepticism I’.
2. [Bonjou]: Chapter 12, ‘Skepticism’.
3. Peter Kline, ‘Skepticism’, in [Moser] (at least 341-348.)

Further Readings

I. & II Introduction and Traditional Analysis of Knowledge
1. *[Williams]: Ch. 1

III. The Gettier Problem
1. M. Steup, “Analysis of Knowledge” in [SEP] (This webpage is a comprehensible survey of the Gettier problem and related issues. Its bibliography is a good guide to more advanced material.)
2. *[Lehrer]: Chapter 1-2. [Lehrer] is an excellent introduction to epistemology. There is a section “Introduction to Literature” at the end of each chapter. You will find this feature of the book very useful as a guide to further readings.
3. Robert Shope ‘Conditions and Analyses of Knowledge’ in [Moser]
4. *G. Harman, Selection from Thought, in [Sosa and Kim]*

IV. Foundationalism
1. R. Fumerton, ‘Theories of justification’ in [Moser]
2. *James Pryor, ‘There is immediate justification’ in [Steup & Sosa].
4. *L. BonJour, Excerpt from The Structure of Empirical Knowledge*, in [Huemer]
5. R. Fumerton, ‘Inferential justification and empiricism,’ in *Journal of Philosophy*, 73. Also reprinted in [Huemer].

On the “Myth of the Given”
8. Section 4 ‘Epistemology’ of the entry ‘Wilfred Sellars’ (by W. deVries) in [SEP].
11. W. Alston, ‘Sellars and the “Myth of the Given”’, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Vo. 65 (2002), pp. 69-96. [Alston argues that Sellars’ arguments in has failed to eliminate a view of perception according to which there is a nonconceptual but cognitive mode of “given” in our awareness of objects that is fundamental to conscious perception.]

V. Coherentism
2. The two article by C. Elgin and J. van Cleve, in Chapter 6 ‘Can beliefs be justified through coherence alone’ of [Steup & Sosa]. (See also M. Williams’ response to Pryor in the same book.)*
4. [Lehrer]: Chapters 5-7. (Ch. 5 discusses in details an important construal of coherence, e.g., coherence as explanation. Ch.6 discusses the Lottery Paradox. See also ch. 7)*

VI. Externalism
1. [Dancy]: Chapter 3, ‘The conditional theory of knowledge’.*

VII. Scepticism
1. Barry Stroud, Chapter I of *The Significance of Philosophical Skepticism*, Oxford University Press, 1984. (This chapter is quite long. But Stroud's writing is extremely accessible. Chapter 2 further strengthens Stroud's arguments for scepticism, read it if you can.)#
2. Descartes, *Meditations* 1&2; any version.

3. Peter Klein, ‘Skepticism’ in [Moser]*


Special Notes on Closure.

The Closure Principle has been one of the most widely debated topics in epistemology in the past two decades. The following list of further reading is adapted from a list of readings on Closure from Richard Feldman’s website:

http://www.ling.rochester.edu/~feldman/philosophy502/closure_readings.html

Initial Criticisms of Closure and a Response


Formulating a Closure Principle


Closure and Skepticism


Recent Developments

14. Articles by Dretske and Hawthorne in [Steup & Sosa]

Encyclopedia Articles

15. Luper, Steven. Stanford Encyclopedia
