PHIL3820
Epistemology 知識論

Course Outline

Time: H 3:30pm-6:15pm	Location: ICS L1

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course introduces some of the central questions and debates in epistemology (the study of knowledge and belief). What does it mean to *know* something? Can we ever have knowledge? Why is knowledge so valuable? We'll explore both classical and contemporary discussions on these questions. Topics include skepticism, the nature and structure of knowledge, internalism and externalism about justification, the value of knowledge, disagreement between rational thinkers, and the possibility that there's more than one rational response to the same evidence.

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

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a range of problems, concepts, and theories in the theory of knowledge and cognition.

2. Enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

skepticism, the nature and structure of knowledge, internalism and externalism about justification, the value of knowledge, peer disagreement, epistemic permissivism

Learning activities

Lecture, Discussion, and Tutorial.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
Attendance and participation		15%

Homework		25%
Presentation		20%
Final paper		40%

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

There are no textbooks for this course. All readings are from assigned papers.

Course schedule

Week	*Topics*	*Required reading*
1	Introduction	No Reading
2	Skepticism About the External World	René Descartes, "Meditation I" Barry Stroud, "The Problem of the External World"
3	Problem of Induction	David Hume, "Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding" Nelson Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction" (section 4)
4	Gettier Cases and Responses	Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" Goldman, "A Causal Theory of Knowing"
5	Modal Theories of Knowledge	Nozick, "Knowledge and Skepticism" Sosa, "How to Defeat Opposition to Moore"
6	Foundationalism and Coherentism	Sosa, "The Raft and the Pyramid," §§1-3, §5 Feldman, "Regress Argument" & "Cartesian Foundationalism" (pp. 49-60) Feldman, "Modest Foundationalism" (pp. 71-79)
7	No Class (Lunar New Year Vacation)	

8	Coherentism	BonJour, "Elements of Coherentism" Sosa, "The Raft and the Pyramid," §9 Feldman, "Coherentism"
9	*Evidentialism*	Feldman and Conee, 'Evidentialism' Baehr, 'Evidentialism, Vice, and Virtue'
10	Reliabilism	Goldman, 'What is Justified Belief?' Vogel, 'Reliabilism Leveled'
11	Pragmatic Encroachment	Fantl and McGrath, "Evidence, Pragmatics, and Justification" Reed "Pragmatic Factors Don't Affect What You Know,"
12	Swamping Problem	Zagzebski, Linda. "From Reliabilism to Virtue Epistemology." Olsson, "reliabilism, stability, and the value of knowledge"
13	Peer Disagreement and Higher-Order Evidence	Christensen: "The Epistemology of Disagreement: The Good News" Kelly: "Higher-Order Evidence and Peer Disagreement" (Section 1 to Section 3)
14	Epistemic Permissivism	White. R, "Epistemic Permissiveness" Kelly. T, "Evidence Can Be Permissive"
15	Philosophical Writing	No Reading

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

Teacher	
Name:	Ye Ru
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	ruye@cuhk.edu.hk

TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

AI Use Policy Note:

All use of AI tools is prohibited for this course. You are not allowed to use any AI tools in any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards

your final grade of the course. You are expected to produce your own work independently without any collaboration or use of AI tools.