EPISTEMOLOGY (PHIL20009)

TIME AND PLACE: Tuesdays 16:10-17:00, Lecture Theatre 2.

Lecturer: Ioannis Votsis
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Office hours (Room B37): Wednesdays 11:00-12:00
                             Thursdays 17:00-18:00

Tutors: Amir Karbasizadeh
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Epistemology is the philosophical investigation of knowledge, belief and a cluster of properties our beliefs have or should have: justification, rationality, warrant, coherence, reliability and truth. We will investigate the nature of our beliefs and belief-forming capacities, asking a variety of questions: What relations do our beliefs stand in to the world, and to each other? What relations do they stand in to other items, such as our perceptual states or our evolutionary past? Which of these relations determine whether a token belief is knowledge? Perhaps in relation to our answers to these questions we will be able to say what knowledge is, how much knowledge we have, if any, and which methods can potentially increase our knowledge.

Essential Textbook

Recommended Textbook

Workload:
Two essays plus coursework for seminar. Suggested essay topics will be distributed in the next few weeks.

BA: The article can be found in the Kim and Sosa anthology.
BG: The article can be found in the Greco and Sosa guide.

1. THE NATURE OF JUSTIFICATION

Essential Reading:
L. Bonjour ‘The Dialectic of Foundationalism and Coherentism’ (BG)

Further Reading:
A. Morton Guide Through the Theory of Knowledge, chs. 1 and 2
E. Sosa ‘The Raft and the Pyramid’ (BA)
J. Dancy Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology, ch.4 and ch.5.1
S. Heatherington Knowledge Puzzles, chs. 22 and 23
2. DEFINING KNOWLEDGE I: Inferences and Defeaters

**Essential Reading:**
E. Gettier ‘Is Knowledge Justified True Belief?’ (BA)
P. Klein ‘A Proposed Definition of Propositional Knowledge’ (BA)

**Further Reading:**
L. Zagzabski ‘What is Knowledge?’ (BG)
M. Kaplan (1985) ‘It’s Not What you Know that Counts’, *Journal of Philosophy*
J. Dancy *Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology*, ch.2
E. Sosa (1964) ‘The Analysis of “Knowing that p”’, *Analysis*
S. Heatherington *Knowledge Puzzles*, chs. 5, 9-11
G. Harman ‘Selections from Thought’ (BA)

3. DEFINING KNOWLEDGE II: Causes and Reliability

**Essential Reading:**
A. Goldman ‘What is Justified Belief?’ (BA) - Reliability

**Further Reading:**
**Causation:**
S. Heatherington *Knowledge Puzzles*, ch. 8

**Reliability:**
R. Feldman (1985) ‘Reliability and Justification’, *The Monist*
S. Heatherington *Knowledge Puzzles*, chs. 6 and 7
E. Connee and R. Feldman ‘The Generality Problem for Reliabilism’ (BA)

4. DEFINING KNOWLEDGE III: Tracking the Truth

**Essential Reading:**
R. Nozick ‘Knowledge and Skepticism’ (BA)

**Further Reading:**
E. Craig *Knowledge and the State of Nature*, ch. 3
S. Luper-Foy ‘Introduction’, *The Possibility of Knowledge*
R. Fumerton ‘Nozick’s Epistemology’ in Luper-Foy’s *The Possibility of Knowledge*
J. Dancy *Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology*, ch.3

5. INTERNALISM VS. EXTERNALISM

**Essential Reading:**
Further Reading:
R. Foley ‘Skepticism and Rationality’ (BA)
L. Bonjour and E. Sosa *Epistemic Justification*.
D. Papineau *Philosophical Naturalism*, ch. 5

6. REJECTING THE COUNTEREXAMPLES

Essential Reading:

Further Reading:
T. Williamson *Knowledge and its Limits*, chs. 1 and 2

7. NATURALIZING EPISTEMOLOGY

Essential Reading:
J. Kim ‘What is “Naturalized Epistemology”? ’ (BA)

Further Reading:
W.V.O Quine ‘Epistemology Naturalized’ (BA)
D. Papineau *Philosophical Naturalism*, ch. 5
H. Kornblith *Knowledge and its Place in Nature*, chs. 1 and 2

8. SCEPTICISM

Essential Reading:
P. Unger ‘An Argument for Skepticism’ (BA)

Further Reading:
B. Stroud ‘The Problem of the External World’ (BA)
G.E. Moore ‘Proof of an External World’ (BA)
S. Heatherington *Knowledge Puzzles*, chs. 18 and 19

9. CONTEXTUALISM

Essential Reading:
K. DeRose ‘Solving the Sceptical Problem’ (BA)

Further Reading:
K. DeRose ‘Contextualism, an Explanation and Defence’ (BG)
D. Lewis ‘Elusive Knowledge’ (BA)
S. Cohen ‘Contextualist Solutions to Epistemological Problems’ (BA)
S. Heatherington *Knowledge Puzzles*, ch. 24
10. INTUITIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN DEFINING KNOWLEDGE

Essential Reading:
H. Kornblith Knowledge and its Place in Nature, ch. 1

Further Reading:
S. Stich The Fragmentation of Reason: Preface to a Pragmatic Theory of Cognitive Evaluation, ch. 4