

Course Description

Course Unit

Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Topics in Contemporary Epistemology

UC Code

FIL8.922148

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

PHD

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

David Horst

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

In this course, we will focus on various topics in contemporary analytic epistemology. Among the topics and questions that we will consider are:

- Reasons for Belief: What should we believe? Only what the evidence supports? Or can there be practical reasons for belief?
- Doxastic Voluntarism and Epistemic Responsibility: Can we belief at will? And if not, are we responsible for our beliefs?
- Belief and Morality: Does moral ignorance exculpate? Do moral beliefs make a difference to moral worth?

- Norms of Inquiry: What's the relation between inquiry and belief? What are norms of inquiry? And how do they relate to epistemic norms?
- Epistemic Virtue: What are epistemic virtues? And how do they explain epistemic normativity?

Grading and Assessment

Provisionally: One oral presentation (30%) and one paper (70%) on topics previously agreed with the instructor.

Bibliography

All course readings will be made available on the course website at the start of the semester.

Some good introductions (available online):

Steup, Matthias and Ram Neta, "Epistemology", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2024 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2024/entries/epistemology/>>.

O'Connor, Cailin, Sanford Goldberg, and Alvin Goldman, "Social Epistemology", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2024 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), forthcoming URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2024/entries/epistemology-social/>>.

Kelly, Thomas, "Evidence", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2016 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2016/entries/evidence/>>.

Chignell, Andrew, "The Ethics of Belief", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2018 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2018/entries/ethics-belief/>>.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None