

Course Description

Course Unit

Contemporary Philosophy

UC Code

FIL2.920222

ECTS Credits

8 ECTS

Work Hours

224H (8 ECTS)

Level

BA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S1

Faculty

David Horst

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

This course aims to introduce students to a range of central problems and debates in contemporary analytic philosophy. In particular, we will focus on hotly debated topics both in contemporary epistemology and in contemporary ethics. In epistemology, questions that we will consider include: What is rational belief? Do moral considerations get a say in what we should believe? What is fake news? Can we be held responsible for our beliefs? And if so, does this require that we have voluntary control over our beliefs? In ethics, questions that we will consider include: Are there reasons to be moral? What is a reason anyways? When can we be blamed/praised for our actions? Does moral ignorance excuse? Although we will cover a lot of ground, the course has a clear overarching

objective: to bring out how philosophical analysis can help us get clear about issues of contemporary moral and social importance.

Part 1: Topics in contemporary epistemology

- Epistemic rationality
- Evidentialism vs. pragmatism
- Moral encroachment
- Fake news and echo chambers
- Epistemic praise and blame

Part 2: Topics in contemporary ethics

- Morality and reasons
- Moral praise and blame
- (Ir)rationality and reasons
- Moral ignorance and responsibility
- Structural injustice and moral culpability

Grading and Assessment

Provisionally:

- a) A written test (30%) and a paper (60%)
- b) Attendance and participation (10%)

All assessments can be done in English or Portuguese.

Bibliography

None

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None