

Course Description

Course Unit

Theory of Knowledge

UC Code

FIL2.920344

ECTS Credits

8 ECTS

Work Hours

224H (8 ECTS)

Level

BA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S1

Faculty

David Horst

Class

TP 2

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

This course is an introduction to epistemology, or the theory of knowledge. The course is organized into four broad sections. In the first section, we will examine the nature and scope of knowledge, asking what it takes to know something and whether we can know anything at all. In the second section, we will consider the notion of justification, asking what it takes for a belief to be justified and/or rational. In the third section, we will focus on issues in the ethics of belief, examining whether practical considerations get a say in what we should believe. Finally, in the fourth section, we turn to issues in social and applied epistemology, examining phenomena such as fakes news, echo chambers, and different forms of epistemic injustice.

Section 1: Knowledge

- The traditional analysis of knowledge
- Gettier problems
- Modal and virtue epistemology
- Skepticism

Section 2: Justification

- Evidentialism
- Reliabilism
- Internalism and externalism

Section 3: Ethics of belief

- Practical reasons for belief
- Friendship and epistemic partiality
- Epistemic responsibility

Section 4: Applied and social epistemology

- Fake news and epistemic bubbles
- Testimony
- Epistemic injustice

Grading and Assessment

a) Two written tests throughout the semester (30%+60%)

b) Attendance and participation (10%)

The tests can be done in English or Portuguese.

Bibliography

None

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None