

University of London Intercollegiate Lectures in Epistemology

Autumn Semester, 2000/2001

Readings1: The Gettier Problem

The readings in these handouts supplement, but do not replace those given in the Study Guide. Starred readings are particularly recommended. It is worth reading Gettier's original article:

*Edmund L. Gettier: "Is justified true belief knowledge?", originally in Analysis 1963, reprinted in Sosa and Kim, eds.

The best collection of essays on the problem is still

*George Pappas and M. Swain: Essays on Knowledge and Justification, Cornell UP 1978

The editor's Introduction is helpful. For a stimulating recent discussion, see

Robert Fogelin, Pyrrhonian Reflections on Knowledge and Justification, Oxford UP, chapters 1 and 2.

Defeasibility analyses are legion. Some of the subtleties required are apparent in the following good one:

Ernest Sosa, "The analysis of 'knowledge that P' ", Analysis 1964, reprinted in his Knowledge in Perspective , Cambridge UP

For some interesting criticisms of the necessary-and-sufficient conditions approach to the analysis of 'knowledge', and a fascinating alternative, see

Edward Craig, Knowledge and the State of Nature, Oxford UP.

Questions

- i) Is knowledge justified true belief? If not, why not? Is it justified true belief that meets some further condition?
- ii) 'It is a short step from the recognition that a justified belief may be false to the conclusion that a justified true belief may not be knowledge.' Discuss.