

BA Intercollegiate Lectures in Epistemology and Methodology

Autumn 2001: Scepticism, Truth-Tracking and A Priori Knowledge

Schedule of lectures

(Full bibliographical details are given in the Readings handouts.)

Lecture 1: Varieties of sceptical argument

Principal readings: Unger, “A defence of scepticism”, Williams, “Scepticism”, in the Blackwell Guide

Lecture 2: G. E. Moore and scepticism.

Principal readings: Moore, “Certainty”, “A defence of common sense”, “Hume’s theory examined”, “Proof of an external world”, all in G.E. Moore: Selected Papers, ed. Baldwin

Lecture 3: Internalism and reliabilism

Principal readings: Goldman, “What is justified belief?”, “A causal theory of knowledge”, and “Discrimination and perceptual knowledge”, and Bonjour, “The externalist conception of justification”.

Lecture 4: Nozick and truth tracking

Principal readings: Nozick, Philosophical Explanations, Dretske, “Epistemic operators”

Lecture 5: Nozick, scepticism and closure

Principal readings: Nozick, Philosophical Explanations

Lecture 6: A priori knowledge 1

Principal readings: Quine, “Two dogmas of empiricism”, Kripke, Naming and Necessity.

Lecture 7: A priori knowledge 2

Principal reading: Bealer, “A priori knowledge”, in the Blackwell Guide

Lecture 8: Contextualist theories of justification

Principal readings: Lewis, “Elusive knowledge”, DeRose, “Solving the sceptical problem”.

Lecture 9: Knowledge in context?

Principal readings: Wittgenstein, On Certainty, Williams, Unnatural Doubts.

Lecture 10: Epistemology naturalized?

Principal readings: Quine, “Epistemology naturalized”, articles by Hilary Kornblith and Richard Feldman in the Blackwell Guide.