

BA Philosophy, Epistemology and Methodology

Term 1, Weeks 1–10

Scepticism, Truth-Tracking and A Priori Knowledge

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. "I know I have a hand. But I also know that if I have a hand, then I'm not being deceived by an Evil Demon. So I know I'm not being deceived in that way." Discuss.
2. "Rational belief is reliably formed." Discuss.
3. Can you know you have a hand while not knowing whether you're a Brain in a Vat?
4. "Since knowledge is closed under known implication, knowledge isn't truth tracking." Discuss.
5. What is a priori knowledge? Do we have any?
6. Compare and contrast epistemic internalism and externalism.
7. Explain and critique naturalized epistemology.
8. How might a contextualist reply to the skeptic? What are the prospects for success?
9. Does any form of philosophical scepticism pose a genuine challenge to our ordinary practices of making knowledge claims and evaluating claims to knowledge made by others? If so, how?