

Ep & Meth Topics

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Week 1: Introduction. Various types of knowledge. Necessary and sufficient conditions. Theories, thought experiments and counter-examples. The JTB view in outline. Primary reading: §§1-3 of my "Knowledge" in Philosophy: guide through the subject; edited by A.Grayling. Secondary reading: §2.1 of Jonathan Dancy's Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology.

Week 2: Fallibilism and Infallibilism. Scope distinctions: necessity-of-the-consequence versus necessity-of-the-consequent. The Gettier Problem. Primary reading: §4 of "Knowledge"; and §§2.2-2.4 of Dancy. Secondary reading: §§5.1-5.4 of Ralph Baergen's Contemporary Epistemology.

Week 3: Internalism vs. Externalism and Foundationalism vs. Coherentism. The four possibilities. Strengths and weaknesses of each. Primary reading: §§1.5-1.7 of "Knowledge". Secondary reading: Chapters 4 and 8 of Dancy, and E.Sosa's "The raft and the pyramid", in Blackwell's Epistemology: an anthology.

Week 4: Externalism 1: Reliabilism. Process vs. Content. Strengths and weaknesses. Primary reading: §1.8 of "Knowledge" and Goldman's "What is Justified Belief?" in the Blackwell anthology. Secondary reading: Chapter 4 of Baergen.

Week 5: Externalism 2: Tracking. The theory and its metaphysics.

The theory and skepticism. Primary reading: Chapter 3 of Dancy. Secondary reading: part 2 of Nozick's Philosophical Explanations.

READING WEEK

Week 6: Three types of perceptual experience. An epistemic and phenomenal constraint on theory. Disjunctivism, intentionalism and sense-data theories. Primary reading: §§1.1-1.2 of my Matters of Mind; and §§2.1-2.3.1 of Mike Martin's "Perception", in the Grayling.

Week 7: Strengths and weaknesses of disjunctivism, intentionalism and sense-data theories. Primary reading: §1.3, 1.6 and 1.7 of Matters of Mind; §§2.3.2-2.3.4 of Martin's "Perception", in the Grayling. Secondary reading: chapters 10 and 11 of Dancy; chapter 7 of Baergen.

Week 8: Quantified epistemology: statics. Credence and probability. The Partition Principle. Dutch books. Primary reading: Dorothy Edgington's "The Logic of Uncertainty" (which I'll make available). Secondary reading: §4.5 of David Papineau's "Methodology", in the Grayling; and §1.3 of John Worrall's "Philosophy and the Natural Sciences", in volume 2 of Grayling.

Week 9: Quantified epistemology: dynamics. Conditionalization and Jeffrey. Learning from experience? Primary reading: §4.7 of Papineau's "Methodology" and §1.3 of Worrall's "Phil. and the NS"

Week 10: Quantified epistemology: conditionality. Truth conditions and triviality. Readings: a handout to be provided in advance if it looks like we'll have time for the topic.