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 Office hours: MWF 11:00am-1:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we examine five related topics in the theory of knowledge: (1) the analysis of knowledge; (2) internalism and externalism about justification; (3) epistemic normativity; (4) perception; and (5) skepticism. The five topics cover three main concepts: belief, justification, and knowledge; and two central problems: the objects of perception and the threat of skepticism. By examining these concepts and problems, we will have a better understanding of the nature of human knowledge — what knowledge is, how we can have knowledge of the external world, and whether we really have such knowledge.

TEXTS: reading material will be posted on WebCT

GRADING

Your course grade is based on the score you get out of a total of 200 points:

- (i) 40 points for attendance: you may miss 3 classes with no penalty; after that, you lose 2 point for each class you miss unless you have very good reason for missing that class.
- (ii) 70 points for 7 article summaries (10 points each).
- (iii) 30 points for a mid-term paper of about 800 words.
- (iv) 60 points for a final paper of about 1,500 words.

** This class has no final exam.*

Grade conversion:

181-200 points : A	171-180 points : A-	161-170 points : B+
151-160 points : B	141-150 points : B-	131-140 points : C+
121-130 points : C	111-120 points : C-	101-110 points : D
100 and below : F		

Additional factors:

- (a) Late papers will not be accepted unless extension has been granted, and extension will not be granted unless you can show that you really need it.
- (b) If you fail to turn in a short paper, your course grade will be marked down one-third of a full grade (e.g. from B to B-). The marking down of grade is on top of the points you lose.
- (c) If you fail to turn in the final paper, your course grade will be marked down one full grade on top of the points you lose.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

- 1st week **Analysis of Knowledge:**
Gettier, 'Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?'
Feldman, 'An Alleged Defect in Gettier Counterexamples'
- 2nd week **Analysis of Knowledge:**
Fogelin, 'Gettier Problems'
- 3rd week **Internalism and Externalism:**
Dretske, 'Two Conceptions of Knowledge: Rational vs. Reliable Belief'
- 4th week **Internalism and Externalism:**
Goldman, 'What Is Justified Belief?'
- 5th week **Internalism and Externalism:**
Conee and Feldman, 'The Generality Problem for Reliabilism'
- 6th week **Belief, the Will, and Epistemic Normativity:**
Williams, 'Deciding to Believe'
- 7th week **Belief, the Will, and Epistemic Normativity:**
Feldman, 'Voluntary Belief and Epistemic Evaluation'
- 8th week **Belief, the Will, and Epistemic Normativity:**
Kornblith, 'Epistemic Normativity'
- 9th week **Perception:**
Ayer, 'The Argument from Illusion'
Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia*, Chapters III & V
- 10th week **Perception:**
Snowdon, 'Perception, Vision, and Causation'
- 11th week **Perception:**
Strawson, 'Perception and Its Object'
- 12th week **Skepticism:**
Descartes, 'First Meditation'
Stroud, 'Scepticism and the Possibility of Knowledge'

13th week **Skepticism:**
Moore, 'Proof of an External World'

14th week **Skepticism:**
Cook, 'Moore and Skepticism'
Wong, 'Moore, the Skeptic, and the Philosophical Context'

15th week **Skepticism:**
Dretske, 'The Epistemology of Belief'
Review