

Philosophy 132: Epistemology

Where: Warren Lecture Hall 2112

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:20

Instructor: Jonathan Cohen

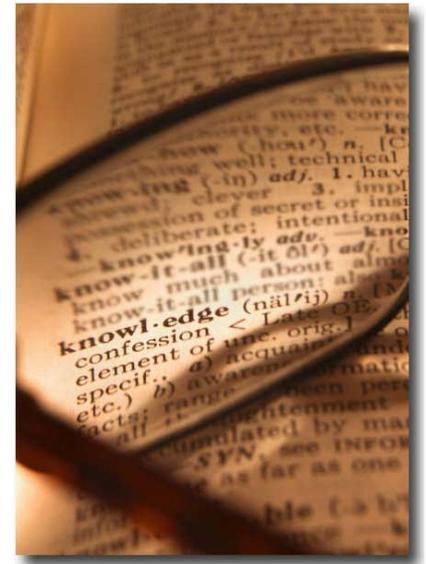
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Office hours: Tuesdays 10-11:30 and by appointment, in H&SS 8072.

Overview

This is a course in recent and contemporary approaches to the theory of knowledge. We'll be looking at some of the major debates in epistemology, including those over the structure of knowledge, the proper analysis of knowledge, justification, and related notions, as well as some meta-epistemological issues that have arisen in recent discussions of so-called naturalized epistemology. The course will not presuppose any exposure to the relevant literatures, and will be a broad overview of some of the going accounts and controversies.



Course Requirements

There will be two assigned papers for the course, and a take home final exam. There will be no midterm.

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated in this course; violators will receive an F on at least the relevant assignment and possibly the course, and will be subjected to UCSD's disciplinary procedures (which could result in penalties including permanent expulsion from the university).

You are responsible for knowing and adhering to the UCSD Policy on Integrity in all respects. In particular, you may not cause or allow your work for this course to resemble that of any other person, and all use of the ideas or words of anyone other than a paper's author must be acknowledged properly. I don't care a huge amount about specific citation formats; I do care a huge amount that sources are acknowledged. As far as collaboration goes, it's fine (it's encouraged) to talk about the philosophical issues with other students or anyone else you like; but when it is time to write up an essay you should do so entirely by yourself. If you have any questions about the Policy on Integrity or how to follow it (e.g., if you are unsure how to cite ideas from other sources) *please ask me!* I am very happy to help prevent real or apparent violations of academic integrity before they occur, and very unhappy to discover that they have occurred. (As you may have noticed, I feel very strongly about this issue.)

To ensure standards of academic integrity are met, I'll ask you, as a condition on taking this course, to run all of your assigned work for the course through [Turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com), which checks your paper for textual similarity to all of the other papers in its databases. (Your submitted papers will also be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism, going forward.)

To get started with the system, please see the instructions at http://turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/training/en_us/Student_Manual_en_us.pdf. You'll need the class ID (5875047) and the password (epistemology).

(There is no) Required Textbook

We won't be using a textbook/anthology for the course. Instead, all readings will be made available by electronic reserve at Geisel Library.

Tentative Schedule

This schedule is tentative in both its content and its timing; I reserve the right to add, subtract, or reschedule items as the course progresses. (In particular, I am skeptical that we'll have time for segment 6 at all; but we can try!)

Segment 1: Skepticism

Descartes, Meditations I-II
Moore, "Proof of an External World"
Moore, "Certainty"
Unger, "An Argument for Skepticism"*

Segment 2: The Analysis of Knowledge

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"
Nozick, "Knowledge and Skepticism"
Klein, "[A Proposed Definition of Propositional Knowledge](#)"

Segment 3: Foundations and Coherence

Chisolm, "The Myth of the Given"
Sellars, "Does Empirical Knowledge Have a Foundation?"
Davidson, "A Coherence Theory of Truth and Knowledge"
Sosa, "The Raft and the Pyramid" (skip appendix)

Segment 4: Reliabilism and Externalism

Goldman, "What is Justified Belief?"

Conee and Feldman, "The Generality Problem for Reliabilism"

Lehrer, "Externalism and Epistemology Naturalized"*

Segment 5: Epistemological Naturalism

Quine, "Epistemology Naturalized"

Kim, "What Is `Naturalized Epistemology'?"

Bonjour, "Against Naturalized Epistemology"

Kornblith, "Naturalistic Epistemology and its Critics"

Segment 6: Contextualism

DeRose, "Solving the Skeptical Problem"

Lewis, "Elusive Knowledge"

Schiffer, "Contextualist Solutions to Skepticism"*