

UNIVERSITY of BERGEN  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

FIL 125 Spring 2018

# INTRO TO THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY

Intro til teoretisk filosofi

Instructors	Prof. Sorin Bangu (office rm. 314A) Seminar leaders: Prof. Kevin Cahill, Assoc. Prof. Richard Sørli
Time and place	Tuesday 12.15-14, Sydneshaugen Skole (SH), Aud Q First lecture Tue. 16 Jan
Course website	<a href="http://www.uib.no/emne/FIL125">http://www.uib.no/emne/FIL125</a> Seminars start week 4 (22-26 Jan) Kevin – Wed. 10.15-12 SPL 210 (gr. 2), Tue. 14.15-16, HF sem. room 371 (gr. 1) Richard (gr. 3) – Wed. 12.15-14 SH room G  mitt.uib – you are responsible for the info posted here regularly
Contact	sorin.bangu@uib.no   kevin.cahill@uib.no   richard.sorli@uib.no <b>Important: please check your <i>university email account</i> often during the course, as this is the only address we will use to communicate with you.</b>

- **Course description**

The purpose of this course is to offer an overview of some of the central themes in contemporary theoretical philosophy. At the beginning, we'll focus on analytical theory of knowledge (epistemology), then we will also tackle topics in metaphysics (God, truth, existence, modality, free will, etc.) Time permitting, we will read a bit of philosophy of mind as well.

- **Readings – all obligatory (for more, ask the teachers!)**

- D. Pritchard: *What is this thing called Knowledge*. Routledge 2014 (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)
- B. Garrett: *What is this thing called Metaphysics*. Routledge 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)
- Several papers and book chapters. Pdf copies available on mitt.uib.

- **Evaluation**

- 'Home exam' = topics/questions given later, answers: ca. 3000-5000 words, strictly enforced. Ca. 4 days allowed to write it: from 7 May, 09.00 until 11 May, 13.00. No supervision.
- Can be written in Norwegian or English

**Seminars**

- Attendance of minimum 9 and 1 oral presentation are mandatory
- Alternative requirements for *international students*: contact Sorin!
- One of Kevin's seminars (gr. 2) is offered in English

## **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS (tentative)**

All readings obligatory. The papers in addition to the textbook chapters are on [mitt.uib](http://mitt.uib.no)

- I. **Intro, overview. The concept of knowledge. The Gettier problem** (1 lecture)
  - D. Pritchard ch. 1, 2, 3
  - E. Gettier “Is justified true belief knowledge?”
  - F. Dretske “Gettier and justified true belief: fifty years on”
  
- II. **Theories of justification** (1 lecture)
  - D. Pritchard ch. 4
  - Sosa “The Raft and the Pyramid”
  
- III. **Virtues and faculties: Rationality** (1 lecture)
  - D. Pritchard ch. 5, 6
  - Saka “Pascal’s Wager” Internet Enc. article
  
- IV. **Apriori and Induction** (1 lecture)
  - Pritchard ch. 9, 10
  - Rosen “The Problem of Induction”
  
- V. **Skepticism** (1 lecture)
  - Pritchard ch. 14, 15
  - B. Stroud “Understanding Human Knowledge in General”
  
- VI. **God, Existence, Modality** (1 lecture)
  - Garrett ch. 1, 3, 4
  - Malcom “Anselm’s Ontological Arguments”
  
- VII. **Causation** (1 lecture)
  - Garrett ch. 6
  - Hitchcock “Causation”
  
- VIII. **Free will** (1 lecture)
  - Garrett ch. 9, 10
  - Kane “The Contours of the Free Will debates”
  
- IX. **Facts and Truth** (1 lecture)
  - Garrett ch. 12, 13
  - Pritchard ch. 16
  - Mulligan and Correia “Facts” Stanford Enc. article, sect. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
  
- X. **Mind and Its place in Nature** (2 lectures)
  - Thinking & Consciousness
    - B. Gertler “In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism”
    - F. Jackson “Epiphenomenal Qualia”
    - D. Dennett “Can Machines Think?”
    - A. Turing “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”
  
- XI. **Recap. Q&A**