

FIL247 EPISTEMOLOGY, spring 2019

Franz Knappik (franz.knappik@uib.no)

This course introduces to contemporary debates in epistemology. It has two parts. The first part covers influential positions and arguments in the debate on **externalism and internalism** about epistemic justification. At the center of this debate stands the question whether epistemic justification requires that the factors that justify a belief are within the subject's grasp (e.g. by being part of the subject's mental life, or being accessible to the subject), or whether all that is needed for epistemic justification are factors of which the subject need not have a grasp (like reliable processes, or intellectual abilities/"virtues").

The second part gives an introduction to several topics in "**social epistemology**", a recently flourishing area that explores knowledge and justification in a social perspective. The course readings for this part often address issues at the intersection between epistemology and moral or political philosophy, and they include both contributions from the analytic tradition and from other traditions, such as feminist philosophy, critical race theory, and poststructuralism.

All course readings are available online. For links to them, see the week-to-week reading plan on the mitt.uib course page.

The language of instruction will be either Norwegian or English, depending on the participants' needs and preferences.

Technical information about the course (exams etc.) can be found at <https://www.uib.no/emne/FIL247> and the mitt.uib course page.

For a first overview over the course topics, the following are recommended:

Part 1: Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entries "Epistemology" (section 3) and "Virtue Epistemology" (sections 1 and 2)

Part 2: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entries "Social Epistemology" (sections 1, 2, 3.2, 5.3, 5.5) and "Feminist Social Epistemology" (sections 1, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2)

PENSUM

NB. This list contains both obligatory and recommended readings. The reading plan on mitt.uib states which texts/sections are obligatory (ca. 20-25 pages per week).

PART 1: EXTERNALISM AND INTERNALISM IN EPISTEMOLOGY (ca. 4 weeks)

1.1 PROCESS RELIABILISM

Alvin Goldman, "What is Justified Belief?", in George Pappas, ed. *Justification and Knowledge*. New Studies in Epistemology, Dordrecht et al.: Reidel, 1979, 1-23

Laurence Bonjour, "Externalist Accounts of Justification", in Laurence Bonjour / Ernest Sosa, *Epistemic Justification: Internalism vs. Externalism, Foundations vs. Virtues*, Malden et al.: Blackwell, 2003, 24-41 (online at UB)

Hamid Vahid, "Externalism/Internalism", in Sven Bernecker / Duncan Pritchard, eds. *The Routledge Companion to Epistemology*, New York/Abingdon: Routledge, 2011, 144-155

1.2 VIRTUE RELIABILISM

Heather Battaly, "Virtue Epistemology", *Philosophy Compass* 3:4(2008), 639-663
(<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2008.00146.x>)

John Greco / Jonathan Reibsam, "Reliabilist Virtue Epistemology", in Nancy Snow, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Virtue*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, 725-746

Ernest Sosa, *Knowledge in Perspective. Selected Essays in Epistemology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991, 270-294 ("Intellectual Virtue in Perspective")

Ernest Sosa, *A Virtue Epistemology. Apt Belief and Reflective Knowledge, Volume 1*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, 22-43 ("A Virtue Epistemology")

1.3 INTERNALISM

Earl Conee / Richard Feldman, "Internalism Defended", in Hilary Kornblith, ed. *Epistemology: Internalism and Externalism*, Malden/Oxford: Blackwell, 2001, 231-260

PART 2: SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY (ca. 9 weeks)

2.1 EXPERTISE

Alvin Goldman, "Experts: Which Ones Should You Trust?", in Alvin Goldman / Dennis Whitcomb, eds. *Social Epistemology: The First Century*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, 109-133 (online at UB)

Alvin Goldman, "Expertise", *Topoi* 37:3(2018), 3-10 (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-016-9410-3>)

2.2 PREJUDICE AND EPISTEMIC INJUSTICE

Miranda Fricker, "Epistemic Injustice and a Role for Virtue in the Politics of Knowing", *Metaphilosophy* 34:1/2(2003), 154-173 (<https://doi-org.pva.uib.no/10.1111/1467-9973.00266>)

Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice. Power and the Ethics of Knowledge*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, 30-41 ("Stereotypes and Prejudicial Stereotypes"), 43-59 ("The Wrong of Testimonial Injustice")

2.3 IMPLICIT BIAS

Jennifer Saul, "Skepticism and Implicit Bias", *Disputatio* 5:37(2013), 243-263 (online: http://www.disputatio.letras.ulisboa.pt/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Saul_Jennifer-Scepticism-and-Implicit-Bias.pdf)

Michael Brownstein / Jennifer Saul, "Introduction", in Michael Brownstein / Jennifer Saul, eds. *Implicit Bias and Philosophy. Vol. 1: Metaphysics and Epistemology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, 1-19

2.4 SOCIAL MEDIA

C. Thi Nguyen, "Echo Chambers and Epistemic Bubbles", *Episteme*, first view, 2018
(<https://doi.org/10.1017/epi.2018.32>)

2.5 FEMINIST STANDPOINT THEORY

Nancy Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism", in Sandra Harding / Merrill B. Hintikka, eds. *Discovering Reality. Feminist Perspectives on Epistemology, Metaphysics, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science*, New York m.fl.: Kluwer, 1983, 283–310 (online at UB)

Tracy Bowell, "Feminist Standpoint Theory", in *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, URL = <https://www.iep.utm.edu/fem-stan/>

Alessandra Tanesini, "Standpoint Theory Then and Now", in Miranda Fricker et al., eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*, Abingdon: Routledge, forthcoming (online: <https://philarchive.org/rec/TANSTT>)

2.6 IGNORANCE

Charles Mills, "White Ignorance", in Shannon Sullivan / Nancy Tuana, eds. *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007, 11-38

Linda Alcoff, "Epistemologies of Ignorance: Three Types", in Shannon Sullivan / Nancy Tuana, eds., *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007, 39-58

2.7 KNOWLEDGE AND POWER

Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Writings, 1972-1977*, ed. Colin Gordon, transl. Colin Gordon et al., New York: Pantheon Books, 1980, 78-133 (ch. 5: "Two Lectures" and ch. 6: "Truth and Power")

Michel Foucault, *Politics, Philosophy, Culture. Interviews and Other Writings, 1977-1984*, ed. Lawrence Kritzman, transl. Alan Sheridan et al., New York: Routledge, 1988, 255-270 (ch. 15: "The Concern for Truth")

Linda Alcoff, "Foucault's Normative Epistemology", in Christopher Falzon et al., eds. *A Companion to Foucault*, Malden et al.: Blackwell, 2013, 207-225 (online atUB)

Joseph Rouse, "Power/Knowledge", in Gary Gutting, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 95-122 (online at UB)

2.8 RELATIVISM ABOUT JUSTIFICATION

Paul Boghossian, *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006, chs. 5-7, 58-110