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](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**


1.2 VIRTUE RELIABILISM


1.3 INTERNALISM


PART 2: SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY (ca. 9 weeks)

2.1 EXPERTISE


2.2 PREJUDICE AND EPISTEMIC INJUSTICE


2.3 IMPLICIT BIAS


2.4 SOCIAL MEDIA

2.5 FEMINIST STANDPOINT THEORY


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


2.7 KNOWLEDGE AND POWER


2.8 RELATIVISM ABOUT JUSTIFICATION

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