

EPISTEMOLOGY

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Instructors	Sorin Bangu (office rm. 314A)
Time and place	Monday 10.15-12, Sydneshaugen, rm 304A First lecture Monday 28 Aug., SH 304A, 10.15-12 Check http://www.uib.no/emne/FIL247
Course website	mitt.uib – you are responsible for the info posted here regularly
Contact	sorin.bangu@uib.no

Important: please check your *university email account* often during the course, as this is the only address we will use to communicate with you.

- **Course description**

The purpose of this course is to offer an overview of some of the central themes in contemporary epistemology. We'll discuss issues related to the history of epistemology (the Cartesian project), the concept of knowledge, justification, induction (both problems), skepticism, apriori knowledge. Time permitted, we'll also look at testimony and the project to 'naturalize' epistemology.

- **Readings**

- L. BONJOUR *Epistemology. Classic Problems and Contemporary Responses* 2nd ed. Rowman and Littlefield, 2010. (@ Akademika) Here: 'BE'
- Several papers and book chapters. Some of them obligatory, if indicated. PDF copies freely available on mitt.uib.
- Strongly recommended to read along the way: J. NAGEL *Knowledge. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford Univ. Press 2015 (@ Akademika)

- **Evaluation**

Two written assignments to be uploaded in INSPERA before deadlines set by the department. The first assignment is 1500-2000 words (excluding table of contents, list of references, etc.). It is *not* supervised. The second assignment is 2500-3000 words (excluding table of contents, list of references, etc.), and *is* supervised. For both, each student chooses her/his own topic from a pre-set list announced in advance. The final grade consist of (i) the first assignment = 30 % + (ii) the second assignment = 70 % of the grade. The compulsory activities (= attending a supervision on a draft submitted in advance) have to be formally approved before one can take an exam in the course. The essays can be written in English or Norwegian.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS (tentative)

Additional readings (free PDFs on mitt.uib) will be indicated as we move on.

I. PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS

- 1. Intro.** BE, Ch. 1 – 28 August
- 2. Descartes's Epistemology.** BE, Ch. 2
- 3. The concept of knowledge.** BE, Ch. 3
- 4. Induction.** BE, Ch. 4. + **Goodman's New Riddle**
- 5. Apriori.** BE, Ch 5.
- 6. Immediate Experience.** BE, Ch. 6.
- 7. The External World.** BE, Ch. 7.
- 8. Other minds, testimony, memory.** BE, Ch. 8.

II. RESPONSES

- 9. Foundationalism, Coherentism, Foundherentism (Haack).** BE Ch. 9
- 10. Internalism, Externalism, Reliabilism.** BE, Ch. 10.
- 11. Naturalized Epistemology.** BE, Ch. 11
- 12. Skepticism.** BE, Ch. 12
- 13. Recap**