

INSTRUCTOR: Samuel A. Taylor
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OFFICE: 1234 Philosophy Building
OFFICE HOURS: 10:30-12:00 MWF or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the relation between justification and a subject's "perspective", and the implications this has for the internalism/externalism debate. Internalists often complain that externalism allows a subject's belief to be justified despite the fact that there is nothing *from the subject's own perspective* that would distinguish the belief's truth from a lucky guess. In the first part of this course we'll look at this complaint, the internalist theories it has motivated, and externalist attempts to incorporate the subject's perspective into their theories. In the second part of the course we will read Bergmann's sustained defense of externalism in his *Justification without Awareness* which attempts to: (i) undermine the motivation for internalism from considerations of "the subject's perspective and (ii) develop and defend a proper functionalist version of externalism. In discussing Bergmann's defense of externalism we will pay special attention to the issues of epistemic circularity, externalism's response to skepticism, and how these issues relate to the worries concerning a subject's perspective.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: As a result of studying these topics students will gain a wide range of knowledge and develop a number of skills whose value extends well beyond the classroom. There are five main goals of this course. The first two are specific to the course material. The last three pertain to more general skills that are necessary for success in any field.

- Achieve an understanding of influential views, arguments, and problems in epistemology.
- Develop a critical perspective on those views, arguments, and problems.
- Improve one's ability to interpret texts and reconstruct arguments.
- Improve one's ability to *evaluate* arguments.
- Improve one's ability to carefully and clearly communicate ideas and arguments both verbally and in writing.

TEXTS: The only *required* text is Michael Bergmann's *Justification Without Awareness* (Oxford, 2006). ISBN: 0199562423.

RECOMMENDED:

- Noah Lemos' *An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). ISBN: 0521603099.

GRADING SCALE:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100-98	97-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-0

GRADING: I will use plus/minus grading. However, I'll only award an "A+" in extraordinary circumstances. Your final grade will be calculated on the basis of a research paper, a short paper/presentation, and participation in the seminar.

FINAL PAPER: 70% of your grade comes from a research paper. This will be an extensive 15-20 page research paper due at the scheduled final exam time. Students will be required to meet with me to discuss their paper and get approval for their topic. Detailed instructions and grading criteria will be provided in class and on the class website.

SHORT PAPER/PRESENTATION: 20% of your grade comes from a short paper and presentation. You'll be required to write a 4-5 page paper that focuses on a specific topic in one week's reading. These papers should be focused on critically engaging the material rather than summarizing the material. You must turn these papers into me at least one week *prior* to our discussion of the reading in class. You will then give a 15-20 min. presentation on the

assigned reading inspired by your paper. Finally, you'll be required to meet with me *after* turning in your paper and *before* your presentation in order to discuss the paper and presentation.

PARTICIPATION: 10% of your grade comes from participation in the seminar.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: I will use turnitin.com. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and will be reported to the college [*EDIT THIS ON THE BASIS OF THE COLLEGE'S POLICY*].

NOTES ABOUT THE SCHEDULE: On the next page you'll find a schedule for the semester. Readings are to be done *before* the class period for which they are listed. Readings with a "*" can be found online at the class website. Finally, the final week is dedicated to paper presentations. During this week, students will give a brief presentation of the main arguments in their research paper followed by a Q & A with the other students.

[SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE]

SCHEDULE

*A LIST OF RECOMMENDED READING FOR EACH TOPIC WILL BE POSTED ONLINE. YOU'RE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO READ SOME OF THESE FOR YOUR SHORT PAPER/PRESENTATION.

Week 1 <i>Classical Foundationalism</i>	Bonjour: Externalist Versions of Foundationalism Fumerton: Internalist and Externalist Foundationalism
Week 2 <i>Classical Foundationalism</i>	Bonjour: Back to Foundationalism Fales: The Given and Knowledge
Week 3 <i>Mentalism</i>	Goldman: Internalism Exposed Conee & Feldman: Internalism Defended
Week 4 <i>Phenomenal Conservatism</i>	Huemer: Selections from <i>Skepticism and the Veil of Perception</i> Huemer: Phenomenal Conservatism and the Internalist Intuition
Week 5 <i>Externalism and the Subject's Perspective</i>	Comesaña: Evidentialist Reliabilism Comesaña: The Diagonal and the Demon
Week 6 <i>Externalism and the Subject's Perspective</i>	Sosa: Human Knowledge, Animal and Reflective Greco: Virtues and Vices of Virtue Epistemology
Week 7 <i>Bergmann's Dilemma</i>	Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 1 & 2
Week 8 <i>Bergmann on Mentalism</i>	Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 3 Rogers and Matheson: Bergmann's Dilemma: Exit Strategies for Internalists
Week 9 <i>Internalism and Deontology</i>	Steup: Epistemic Duty, Evidence, and Internality Steup: Selections from SEP article <i>The Analysis of Knowledge</i> Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 4
Week 10 <i>Bergmann's Proper Functionalism</i>	Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 5
Week 11 <i>Bergmann on Defeaters</i>	Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 6
Week 12 <i>Externalism, Skepticism, and Circularity</i>	Fumerton: Externalism and Skepticism Cohen: Basic Knowledge and the Problem of Easy Knowledge
Week 13 <i>Externalism, Skepticism, and Circularity</i>	Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 7 Vogel: Epistemic Bootstrapping
Week 14 <i>Externalism, Skepticism, and Circularity</i>	Fumerton: Epistemic Internalism, Philosophical Assurance, & the Skeptical Predicament Bergmann: <i>JWA</i> Ch. 8
Week 15	<i>PAPER PRESENTATIONS</i>