

Phil 127: Summary

The goal of this course was to provide an introduction to the field of epistemology. Epistemology is the study of knowledge, "and everything related to it". It aims at properly distinguishing knowledge from belief, identifying the objects of knowledge, and clarifying what justifies a knowledge claim, among other issues. The course further aimed at an analysis of the ways in which epistemology is done, criticising individualistic approaches and contrasting them with social approaches to knowledge. Instead of explaining it away, the course actively incorporated and worked with the tension between theory and praxis, by using own lived experiences as both a testing ground and site of criticism for philosophical theories.

By the end of the course, students are able to provide a definition of knowledge and critically engage with it:

Standard Definition of Knowledge: Knowledge is justified true belief.

Texts and central problems

Plato, *Theaetetus*

Defining knowledge · the significance of knowledge for judgement · the Socratic Dialogue · maieutic · necessary and sufficient conditions · aporia

Descartes, *Meditations*

Rationalism · philosophical doubt · an indubitable foundation for beliefs · clarity and distinctness of ideas · Dream Argument · Cogito Argument · rationalism

Hume, *Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*

Empiricism · relations of ideas vs. matters of fact · inductive vs. deductive reasoning · causality · habit

Goldman, *A Guide to Social Epistemology*

Individualistic vs. Social Epistemology · collective doxastic agents · epistemic systems · knowledge as inherently social · learning from others

Goldman, *Experts*

What expert knowledge? · Who counts as an expert? · identifying experts · experts vs. lay people · expert disagreement

Lackey, *Acquiring knowledge from others*

Testimony · trusting others: reductionism vs. non-reductionism · transmission of knowledge as a social interaction: speaker and hearer · defeaters · peer disagreement

Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*

An injustice that is distinctly epistemic · epistemic harm · social positionality and social power · social power and knowledge · epistemic resources · testimonial injustice · hermeneutical injustice · epistemic bad luck · epistemic justice

Berenstain, *White Feminist Gaslighting*

Gaslighting: incidental vs. structural · systems of oppression (White supremacy, colonialism, patriarchy) and knowledge · reproducing/upholding vs. dismantling systems of oppressions

Mills, *White ignorance*

Knowledge vs. ignorance · ignorance and social power · ignorance and systems of oppression · testimony - perception - conception - memory

Carel, Kidd, *Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare*

Testimonial/hermeneutical injustice in praxis · institutionalised epistemic injustice · expert knowledge vs. first-personal knowledge about the body · the phenomenological toolkit