

## Issues in Epistemology PHIL 6340 07

Greco (11-26-18)

Meetings: Thursdays from 2:30-5pm and as needed (See seminar schedule for specific meeting dates)

Meetings in 343 Adorjan Hall (Philosophy Seminar Room)

Office hours: 306 Adorjan Hall, by appointment

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### Course Description

The seminar will be a survey of topics in contemporary epistemology and will include several guest lecturers.

### Readings

Required and recommended readings will be made available as PDFs on the seminar website.

### Work for the course

Students are required to submit a) five two-page précis of assigned readings (due at intervals throughout the semester); b) a two-page paper proposal; c) a twenty-page research paper. Students are also expected to participate in seminar discussions.

### **Seminar Dates (2:30-5 PM unless noted)**

August 30

September 6 (two sessions), 27

October 4, 11

November 1, 7, 8, 16\*, 28, 29

December 5, 6\*, 12, 13\*

December 17: Papers due.

December 20: Grades due.

**+ November 7: 6-8:30 PM**

**+ November 28: 6-8:30 PM**

**+ December 5: 6-8:30 PM**

**+ December 12: 6-8:30 PM**

### **Seminar Guests**

John Turri, X-phi and Epistemology **(9-6 noon to 1:15)**

Pascal Engel, Reasons and Virtue Epistemology. Guest: (9-27)

Kareem Khalifa, Understanding (10-4)

Jonathan Kvanvig, Fallibilism (10-11)

Joe Salerno, Themes on Epistemic Modality (11-8)

Lisa Miracchi, Knowledge-first Epistemology (11-16)

Ted Poston, Swinburne and Religious Epistemology (12-6)

### **Preliminary schedule of topics**

#### 1. Introduction: Gettier and post-Gettier epistemology (8-30)

Gettier, Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?

Chisholm, *The Problem of the Criterion*

Greco, Post-Gettier Epistemology

Greco, Intellectual Humility and Contemporary Epistemology: A Critique of Epistemic Individualism, Internalism and Evidentialism

#### 2. X-phi and epistemology. Guest: John Turri (9-6, two sessions)

##### A. Knowledge and Truth

Turri and Buckwalter, "Knowledge and Truth: A Skeptical Challenge"

Turri and Buckwalter, "Knowledge, Adequacy, and Approximate Truth"

##### B. Knowledge and ability

Turri, J. (2016). How to do better: toward normalizing experimentation in epistemology. In J. Nado (Ed.), *Advances in experimental philosophy and philosophical methodology* (pp. 35–51). London: Bloomsbury Academic.

<<https://john.turri.org/publications/how-to-do-better>>

Turri, J. (in press). Virtue epistemology and abilism on knowledge. In H. Battaly (Ed.), *Routledge handbook of virtue epistemology*. New York: Routledge.

<<https://john.turri.org/publications/virtue-epistemology-and-abilism-on-knowledge>>

#### 3. Reasons and Virtue Epistemology. Guest: Pascal Engel (9-27)

Greco and Reibsam, "Reliabilist Virtue Epistemology," in *OUP Handbook of Virtue*

Sosa, "Virtue Epistemology: Character versus Competence," in *Judgment and Agency*

Lepock, "Unifying the intellectual virtues," *PPR* Vol. LXXXIII No. 1, July 2011

Kearns & Star, "Reasons as Evidence," in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 4, 2009

Star, "Virtue," in *Knowing Better*, Oxford 2015

#### 4. Understanding. Guest: Kareem Khalifa (10-4)

Elgin, True Enough

Doyle et al, Non-Factive Understanding

Khalifa, Understanding, Explanation, and Scientific Knowledge, Chapters 1 and 6

Sullivan and Khalifa, Idealizations and Understanding, *Much Ado about Nothing?*

#### 5. Fallibilism. Guest: Jonathan Kvanvig (10-11)

Kvanvig, Rationality and Reflection

Lewis, Elusive Knowledge

6. Housekeeping, and general Q&A ( 11-1)

7. Internalism and Externalism. **Wednesday, (11-7) 6pm-8:30**

John Greco, [“Justification is not Internal”](#)

George Pappas, [Internalist vs. Externalist Conceptions of Epistemic Justification](#)

[Ted Poston, Internalism and Externalism in Epistemology](#)

William Alston: Epistemic Desiderata

8. Themes on Epistemic Modality. Guest: Joe Salerno. (Thursday, 11-8)

Gillies, Epistemic Conditions and Conditional Epistemics

[stanford encyclopedia entry on indicative conditionals](#) (sections 2 and 4)

9. Knowledge First Epistemology. Guest: Lisa Miracchi (Friday, 11-16)

**Note: class is in Theology, ADH 245**

Miracchi, "Competent Perspectives and the New Evil Demon Problem" (forthcoming).

Ichikawa and Jenkins (2017) "On Putting Knowledge First"

Williamson, Knowledge and Its Limits, Ch.s 1-3

Miracchi, "Competence to Know"

10. Nature and Value of Knowledge (11- 28)

Greco, [Achieving Knowledge](#), chapters 5 and 6

11. Epistemology of Testimony. (11-29)

Greco, [Recent Work on Testimonial Knowledge](#)

McMyler and Ogungbure, [Recent Work on Trust and Testimony](#)

Greco, [Testimonial Knowledge and the Flow of Information](#)

Greco, Virtue, Knowledge, and Achievement

12. Religious Epistemology (A and B)

**A. December 5, 6-830pm**

[Swinburne et al. Guest: Ted Poston](#)

Plantinga *Warranted Christian Belief* pp. 498-99

Swinburne, "Plantinga on Warrant," *Religious Studies* 37: 203-214

Plantinga, "Rationality and public evidence: a reply to Richard Swinburne" *Religious Studies* 37: 215-222.

Swinburne & Plantinga "Swinburne and Plantinga on internal rationality" *Religious Studies* 37: 357-358.

Optional: Swinburne *The Existence of God* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, pp. 328-342.

**B. December 6, 230-5pm**

The Externalist and Social Turns in Religious Epistemology

Greco, [“Knowledge of God”](#)

13. Student presentations of work in progress. **6-8:30 (Wednesday, December 12)**

14. Student presentations of work in progress. **2:30- 5 (Thursday, December 13)**

Other topics: knowledge and action, pragmatic encroachment, knowledge and assertion, evidence, defeating evidence and defeaters, epistemic modals, modal epistemology, knowledge and luck, Pyrrhonian problematic, Gettier, social epistemology, virtue epistemology, methodology of epistemology, disagreement, moral epistemology, epistemology and authority, knowledge and rationality, epistemic norms, knowledge and closure, extended and distributed knowledge.

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### ***Title IX***

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU’s Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [akratky@slu.edu](mailto:akratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU’s sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: [www.slu.edu/here4you](http://www.slu.edu/here4you) and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

### ***Disability Services***

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or 314.977.3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the

student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

### ***Academic Integrity***

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at:

[https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy\\_academic-integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf).

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

### ***Student Success Center***

The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit

<https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

### ***University Writing Services***

University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit

<https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

### ***Basic Needs Security***

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are

comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.