

180002-EN1 EPISTEMOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS-MOD1 **ALEXANDER BIRD**

Prerequisites	First part of 180002-EN1 EPISTEMOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS-MOD1, delivered by Prof. Tommaso Piazza
Educational goals	<p>Knowledge and understanding: Students will be expected to acquire essential knowledge about some of the major philosophical problems concerning belief and knowledge.</p> <p>Use of knowledge and understanding: The course will provide students with tools for the application of rigorous methods of reasoning in diverse circumstances, with particular attention to the normative assessment of belief.</p> <p>Ability to draw conclusions: The course will emphasize the relevance of accurate argumentation and the application of logical and formal tools to correct reasoning in epistemology.</p> <p>Communication skills: Strong emphasis will be placed on the capacity to discuss theoretical problems clearly and systematically, and to motivate through rigorous arguments one's point of view.</p> <p>Ability to learn: Independent elaboration of the material presented in class will be encouraged. Knowledge acquisition will be facilitated through class discussions.</p>
Course content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence and Evidentialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidentialism and its critics • Evidence and knowledge (knowledge-first, E=K) 2. Social Epistemology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimony, reductive and anti-reductive approaches • Group knowledge 3. Justification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does justification have a structure? (Coherentism, foundationalism, reliabilism, internalism v. externalism) • Knowledge-first approaches to justification 4. Empiricism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is empiricism? History of empiricism, empiricism v. rationalism • Criticism of empiricism. Can there be empirical knowledge without empiricism? 5. Epistemic probability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayesian epistemology • Evidential probability 6. Additional topics in current epistemology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic to chosen in consultation with the students • Wrap up — the significance of knowledge-first epistemology
Teaching methods	<p>6 x 3 hours sessions (3 sessions per week)</p> <p>Each session in two halves corresponding to the sub-topics above under 'Course content'.</p> <p>Teaching will be delivered by a combination of lecture and seminar-style discussion.</p>
Assessment and Evaluation	<p>Assessment will be by oral examination on the basis of a prepared presentation and questions, to be examined by Zoom or similar video-conferencing.</p>

Further information

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webpage for course materials:

<http://www.alexanderbird.org/page3.html>

or QR code

