

Sanders Seminar in Epistemology
Advanced Topics in Epistemology 16:730:650
Spring 2015, Thursdays, 1:10am-4:10pm
Philosophy Seminar Room, 1534B, 106 Somerset St.
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Office hours by appointment

Perceptual Evidence

Course Description

This seminar will address the following set of questions: What evidence does perceptual experience provide us with? What is the rational source of perceptual evidence? What role (if any) do sensory states play in perception yielding evidence? What is the relationship between perceptual evidence, knowledge, and justification?

Requirements

1. 20 page final paper, due June 31.
2. 300 word abstract for final paper, due March 1st.
3. Presentation of draft of final paper at the graduate conference on May 6th, including 3-4 page handout of talk and powerpoint/keynote slides.
4. 2 questions on reading each week to be submitted by email Thursday morning before class.

Learning Objectives

- To examine the notion of evidence and its relation to justification and knowledge.
- To examine the interrelation between sensory states and evidence.
- To examine externalist and internalist conceptions of evidence.
- To examine the relationship between evidence and credence

Schedule

We will focus on one to three articles each week. We will decide which articles to focus on each week as the semester progresses.

Jan 22: Introduction

Jan 29:

Reading:

Jessica Brown, "Immediate Justification, Perception, and Intuition"
Tim Williamson, "Is knowing a state of mind"
Susanna Schellenberg, "Experience and Evidence"
Alex Byrne, "Perception and Evidence"

Feb. 5 Tom Kelly visits

Reading:

Tom Kelly, "Evidence" Stanford encyclopedia
Tom Kelly, "Evidence and Normativity"
Tom Kelly, "Common Sense as Evidence: Against Revisionary Ontology and Skepticism"

Feb 12—no class

Feb 19

Reading:

- Tyler Burge, "Perceptual Entitlement"
- Matt McGrath, "Schellenberg on the Epistemic Force of Experience"
- Ram Neta, "Perceptual Evidence and the Capacity View"
- Adam Pautz, "What is my Evidence that here is a Cup"
- Susanna Schellenberg, "Phenomenal Evidence and Factive Evidence"
- Susanna Schellenberg, "The Epistemic Force of Perceptual Experience"

Feb 26—no class

March 5—Guest Speaker: Mark Johnston

Reading:

- Mark Johnston, "Against the Content View"
- Mark Johnston, "On a Neglected Epistemic Virtue"
- Mark Johnston, "Better Than Mere Knowledge? The Function of Sensory Awareness"

March 12—Guest Speaker: John Morrison

Reading:

- John Morrison (MS), "Perceptual Confidence"
- Sarah Moss, "Epistemology Formalized"

March 19—Spring break

March 26—no class

April 2—Guest Speaker: Heather Logue

Reading:

- Heather Logue (2011), "The Skeptic and the Naïve Realist". *Philosophical Issues* 21: 268-288.

April 9—Guest Speaker: Neil Mehta

Reading:

- Neil Mehta (MS), "The Normative Role of Perceptual Experience"

April 16—Guest Speaker: Christopher Peacocke

Reading:

- Christopher Peacocke, *The Realm of Reason*, chapters 1-3

April 23

Reading:

- Maria Lasonen Arnio, "Unreasonable Knowledge"
- Jim Pryor, "The Skeptic and the Dogmatist"
- Jim Pryor, "There is Immediate Justification"

April 30—Guest Speaker: Brian Weatherson

Reading:

- Brian Weatherson, "Scepticism, Rationalism and Externalism"
- Brian Weatherson, "Evidence Neutrality?"
- Brian Weatherson, "E ≠ K"
- Brian Weatherson, "Easy Knowledge and Other Epistemic Virtues"

Wednesday, May 6 Conference with Jessica Brown.



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