

EPISTEMOLOGY (PHIL20009)

Essay Titles:

The Nature of Justification

- (1) Is Foundationalism/Coherentism a good account of justification?
- (2) How should we escape Agrippa's trilemma?

Defining Knowledge I: Inference and Defeaters

- (1) Is Knowledge justified true belief involving no false lemmas?
- (2) Compare the no false lemmas to the no true defeater account.

Defining Knowledge II: Causes and Reliability

- (1) Can we only know about those things that we are causally in touch with?
- (2) What is the generality problem for reliabilism?

Defining Knowledge III: Tracking the Truth

- (1) Is Nozick's theory resistant to counterexamples?
- (2) Can Nozick's theory give a satisfactory reply to the sceptical problem?

Internalism and Externalism

- (1) Can we know without knowing that we know?
- (2) What does Kornblith think of introspection? How do his conclusions bear on the internalism vs. externalism debate?

Rejecting the Counterexamples

- (1) Can one have lucky knowledge?
- (2) How do we know when we've hit on the right definition of knowledge?

Naturalising Epistemology

- (1) What, if anything, is appealing about naturalised epistemology?
- (2) Can we successfully purge epistemology from normative elements?

Scepticism

- (1) Does Jake have evidence which supports his belief that he is not a brain in a vat?
- (2) Does knowing that p give one the right to be absolutely certain that p?

Contextualism

- (1) Is the claim that the term 'knowledge' is context-sensitive a genuinely epistemological claim?
- (2) Can contextualism help solve the sceptical problem?

The Role Intuitions Play in Defining Knowledge

- (1) What role, if any, should intuitions play in the pursuit to define knowledge?
- (2) Can we investigate knowledge itself, without investigating the concept of knowledge?