

Mind and Epistemology

Spring 2023, 16:730:575:01; C/L 16:185:602:01

Thursday 12:15 – 3 PM in the seminar room of the philosophy department

Juan Comesaña, Susanna Schellenberg, Ernie Sosa

Office hours: by appointment

Learning goals: What is the nature of perception and belief? How do they interact to yield knowledge and justification? What is the role of reasons and their role in perceptual justification? What does it mean to have a subjective perspective? What is the place of intuitions and thought experiments in finding answers to these questions? Our seminar will discuss these questions and aim to find answers. It will be divided up into the following three units:

1. What is the role of reasons and their role in perceptual justification? (led by Juan Comesaña)
2. What does it mean to have a subjective perspective? (led by Susanna Schellenberg)
3. Selections from the following topics: The metaphysics in and of epistemology. Instrumentalism. Permissivism. Epistemology from the armchair? The nature of judgment, belief, and suspension. (Led by Ernie Sosa)

Requirements

1. **Reading Response Requirement:** Each student must submit two responses to the reading for each class meeting. A reading response could be a comment on something you found particularly intriguing, a question about something that you would like to hear more about, a question about something that you did not understand, or something in that vein. Reading responses must be submitted by email by 10pm on the day before the relevant class meeting..
2. **Abstract Requirement:** Each student must submit a 200-word abstract for their seminar paper. The abstract will present the question your paper addresses, the thesis for which you are arguing, and it will explain why that question and thesis are interesting. The abstract must be submitted by email by 10pm on April. 8.
3. **Paper Outline Requirement:** Each student must submit a 1-page outline of their seminar paper. The outline should list each section title and subsection title of your paper along with a 1-2 sentence description of what will happen in that section. The outline must be submitted by email by 10pm on April 22.
4. **Presentation Requirement:** Each student will present their seminar paper at a small workshop at the end of the seminar.
5. **Paper Requirement:** Each student must submit one seminar paper (about 20-pages). This is the same paper that you will have presented. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1” margins and submitted by email.