



Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2023/2024

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 24 hours

COURSE TITLE

Epistemology

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Logic, epistemology and philosophy of science

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

The course focuses on the nature of justification and on the role of experts in acquiring knowledge and informing laypeople's beliefs. It provides an introduction to advanced topics in epistemology (justification, testimony, probability) and specializes in the question of how people should aggregate their own beliefs with the opinions of experts in the subject matter. This is arguably one of the big questions faced by policy-makers and citizens alike, who often need to rely on the input from experts, and to amalgamate it with their own beliefs and preferences. The recent Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine or measures for tackling climate change provide telling examples. The course aims at uncovering the philosophical foundations of how beliefs that are relevant for such decisions are (and should be) formed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to: (i) be familiar with the contemporary debate in theories of epistemic justification and knowledge; (ii) show a clear understanding of the degree to which laypeople can and should rely on experts for forming their beliefs; (iii) develop in a sustained manner their own criticisms of some of these ideas and arguments, and initiate original lines of thought; (iv) be able to connect the course topics to other areas of philosophy; (v) be able to derive policy implications of the material covered in the course; (vi) have improved their ability to make complex ideas understandable in both speaking and writing.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

N/A

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The Visiting Professor should be an internationally renowned expert in epistemology, with particular attention to social epistemology and topics such as testimony, expertise and evidence. He/she should have published at an international level, in highly ranked general philosophy journals and/or in the very best specialized epistemology journals. AOC in logic and/or philosophy of science is welcome. The candidate should also have ample experience with teaching epistemology at university level and be familiar to international contexts and collaborations with researchers from different universities.

CONTACT REFERENT

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