

# Intellectual Autonomy and Dependence

*Syllabus: spring 2013*

Instructor:	David Barnett
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Office Hours:	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-5pm Lamont House 204
Course Description:	It is often said that we ought to think for ourselves, but in the real world each of us depends on the information and opinions that we hear from other people. Can we be self-reliant in our beliefs? Should we try to be? When it is appropriate to believe what other people tell you, and when should you trust your own judgment?
Readings:	David Owens' <i>Reason without Freedom</i> A coursepack available from the bookstore
Papers:	For PHL-366: a 6pg midterm paper and an 8pg final paper For PHL-446: an 8pg midterm paper and a 12pg final paper
Grading:	35% first paper 45% second paper 20% class participation

## Class Schedule

Week 1	
04/02 (Tu)	G. A. Cohen, <i>If You're an Egalitarian, How Come You're So Rich</i> , Ch. 1
04/04 (Th)	William James, 'The Will to Believe' John Pollock, excerpt from <i>Contemporary Theories of Knowledge</i> (handout)
Week 2	
04/09 (Tu)	Richard Feldman, 'Reasonable Religious Disagreements' Philosophy TV: Christensen and Sorensen on disagreement
04/11 (Th)	Adam Elga, 'Reflection and Disagreement'
Week 3	
04/16 (Tu)	Thomas Kelly, 'Disagreement and the Burdens of Judgment'
04/18 (Th)	David Enoch, 'Not Just a Truthometer: Taking Oneself Seriously (but not Too Seriously) in Cases of Peer Disagreement'
Week 4	
04/23 (Tu)	Sharon Street, 'A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value'
04/25 (Th)	Roger White, 'You Just Believe that Because...' Philosophy TV: Elga, Schechter, and White on the problem of contingency

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Week 5	
04/30 (Tu)	<b>Speaker:</b> Katia Vavova, 'Irrelevant Influences'
05/02 (Th)	Miriam Schoenfield, 'Permission to Believe: Why Permissivism Is True and What It Tells Us About Irrelevant Influences on Belief' Recommended: Roger White, 'Epistemic Permissiveness'
Week 6	
05/07 (Tu)	Joshua Schechter, 'Rational Self-Doubt and the Failure of Closure'
05/09 (Th)	Tyler Burge, 'Content Preservation'
Week 7	
05/14 (Tu)	Jennifer Lackey, 'Learning from Words'
05/16 (Th)	Jennifer Lackey, 'Memory as a Generative Epistemic Source' Recommended: Thomas Senor, 'Preserving Preservationism: A Reply to Lackey' Recommended: Jennifer Lackey, 'Why Memory Really is a Generative Epistemic Source: A Reply to Senor'
Week 8	
05/21 (Tu)	David Owens, <i>Reason without Freedom</i> , Chs. 9 and 10
05/23 (T)	David Owens, <i>Reason without Freedom</i> , Ch 11
Week 9	
05/28 (Tu)	John Greco, 'Justification Is not Internal' Richard Feldman, 'Justification is Internal'
05/30 (Th)	<b>Speaker:</b> Sinan Dogramaci, 'A Practical Approach to the Problem of Forgotten Evidence'
Week 10	
06/03 (M)	<b>Movie night:</b> <i>Memento</i> (Beuth house at 7pm.)
06/04 (Tu)	John Pollock, excerpt from <i>Contemporary Theories of Knowledge</i> (handout) Andy and David Chalmers, 'The Extended Mind'
06/06 (Th)	David Barnett, 'Is Memory Merely Testimony from One's Former Self?'