

Professor:	David Barnett
Meeting times:	Tuesdays, 12-3pm University College 148
Office Hours:	Monday, 2-3pm Jackman Humanities Building, Room 539
Email:	davidjames.barnett@utoronto.edu Note: Email is not the forum for substantive philosophical discussion, or for information that can easily be obtained from the syllabus.
Course Description:	This course will focus on recent debates in social epistemology, particularly those concerning the rationality of trust in oneself and in others. Our central questions will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is it rational to believe the testimony of another person? • When is it rational to persist in beliefs that you came to hold in the past? • How should you respond to disagreement from an epistemic peer, who appears to be as reasonable, informed, and intelligent as you, but whose beliefs regarding controversial questions contradict your own? • Is it rational for you to persist in beliefs that you know you would have rejected had you been raised in another family or culture? • How should you respond to evidence supporting that you might not be as trustworthy as you previously believed?
Readings:	Readings available at: http://www.davidjamesbar.net/?page_id=408
Grading:	20% class participation 20% first short paper (1,000 words, due via email on October 7) 20% second short paper (1,000 words, due via email on November 4) 40% final paper (3,000 words, due in class on December 6)

Class Schedule

September 13	class intro
September 20	Thomas Kelly, 'The Epistemic Significance of Disagreement'
September 27	David Christensen, 'The Epistemology of Disagreement: The Good News'
October 4	Roger White, 'Epistemic Permissivism' Miriam Schoenfield, 'Permission to Believe: Why Permissivism is True and What It Tells Us about Irrelevant Influences on Belief'
October 7	due (via email): first short paper (1,000 words)
October 11	Richard Feldman, 'Respecting the Evidence'
October 18	Sophie Horowitz, 'Epistemic Akrasia'
October 25	Maria Lasonen-Aarnio, 'Higher-Order Evidence and the Limits of Defeat'

November 1	Miriam Schoenfield, 'A Dilemma for Calibrationism' David Christensen, 'Disagreement, Drugs, etc.: From Accuracy to Akrasia'
November 4	due (via email): second short paper (1,000 words)
November 8	fall break — no class
November 15	John Greco, 'Justification is Not Internal' Richard Feldman, 'Justification is Internal'
November 22	Matthew McGrath, 'Memory and Epistemic Conservatism' Alexander Jackson, 'Appearances, Rationality, and Justified Belief'
November 29	Andrew Moon, 'Three Forms of Internalism and the New Evil Demon Problem' Brian Weatherson, 'Memory, Belief, and Time'
December 6	David Barnett, 'Memory, Epistemic Responsibility, and the First-Person Perspective' Due (in class): final paper (3,000 words)