PHIL10211: Advanced Topics in Philosophy
Interpersonal Thought

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Course Description: It is a core insight in ethics that our relation to other subjects is categorically different from our relation to objects. In our encounter of others, unlike in our encounter of objects, we must take into account either how they feel (for instance, their pleasure and pain), or what ends they set (and therein respect their freedom), or what claims they make on us. In this course, we will consider whether there is a corresponding insight in epistemology. Is our relation to other subjects categorically different from our relation to objects not only in what we do but also in how we think? In what ways do other subjects figure in our thoughts differently than mere objects? We will consider these questions in the context of various topics in epistemology, including epistemic injustice, testimony, trust, peer disagreement, and doxastic wronging.

Assessment: There are three pieces of assessment for this course:

- Mid-term essay (approx. 1500 words) (40%): Due Thurs. 3 March. 2022, 12pm
- Final essay (approx. 2500 words) (55%): Due Thurs. 21 April 2022, by 12pm
- Participation (5%)

The assessment of participation will be based on presence and engagement in tutorial and in office hours.

Readings:
Below you will find a list of the required readings for each week. These readings, as well as further supplementary readings, will be posted on the Learn site.

Week 1: The Participant and the Objective Stance
P.F. Strawson, “Freedom and Resentment.”

Week 2: Objectification
Rae Langton, “Duty and Desolation”
Mark Schroeder, “Persons as Things”

Week 3: Eye Contact and Self-Consciousness
James Laing, “When Eyes Touch”
James Laing, “Ordinary Self-Consciousness as a Philosophical Problem”

Week 4: Ethics of Belief
Berislav Marušić, “The Ethics of Belief”
Barry Maguire and Jack Woods, “The Game of Belief”
Week 5: **Epistemic Injustice**  

Week 6: **Testimony**  
Richard Moran, “Getting Told and Being Believed”

Week 7: **Trust**  
Katherine Hawley, “Trust, Distrust and Commitment”

Week 8: **Doxastic Wronging**  
Rima Basu, “What We Epistemically Owe to Each Other”  

Week 9: **Peer Disagreement**  
Adam Elga, “Reflection and Disagreement”  
Berislav Marušić and Stephen J. White, “Disagreement and Alienation”

Week 10: **Mutual Recognition**  
A.J. Julius, “Mutual Recognition”

Week 11: **Review**  
This week we will bring together the themes of the course, discuss essay strategies, and anything else you’d like to go over.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Display understanding of a range of issues, including issues in interpersonal epistemology, such as epistemic injustice, testimony, trust, doxastic wronging, and peer disagreement.
2. Critically analyse and engage with the literature at the intersection of analytic epistemology and ethics.
3. Present arguments clearly and concisely both within a classroom context and in a written essay.
4. Demonstrate transferrable skills in research, analysis and argumentation, specifically with regard to the ethics of thought.