Prof. Michael Weishto

Course Title: How Do We Know? A Psychological Perspective

Course Code: 129-2-0106

Course Supervisor: Michael Weishto

Learning Objectives:

Course Overview:
This course focuses on the epistemology of personal knowledge: how we understand knowledge and the processes of creating knowledge. This conceptual understanding of epistemology has implications for how people learn, formulate arguments, and draw conclusions.

The course will examine the theory of the child on consciousness (ToM) and several perspectives on personal epistemology. There will be an emphasis on learning processes in the school setting, where knowledge is acquired and constructed. The topics include:

1. Epistemology - Theory of Knowledge - With a Philosophical Perspective
   - What is knowledge? Different aspects of how we acquire knowledge, the relationship between our understanding of knowledge and reality, and how different epistemological stances influence research and understanding of processes.

2. Theory of the Child on Consciousness (ToM)
   - Research on the Theory of the Child on Consciousness
   - Culture and the Theory of the Child on Consciousness and Social Interaction as a Source of the Theory of the Child on Consciousness
   - Conclusions and the Theory of the Child on Consciousness

3. Psychologistic Approaches to Personal Epistemology
   - Personal Epistemology and Academic Disciplines - Framework, Objectives, the Status of "Expert" in Various Disciplines
   - Developmental Epistemology - How developmental epistemology is integrated with theories in cognitive development - Various aspects of knowledge and understanding. Is the source of knowledge in beliefs, theories, cognitive understanding, or what?

4. Thinking and Knowledge Acquisition
   - Personal Epistemology and Argumentation
   - Personal Epistemology and Narratives
   - Personal Epistemology and Authority

5. Conclusion - Summary and Reflection

6. Further Reading

Affiliated Faculty:

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
דרישות והרכב ציון

רשימה ביבליוגרפית:


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חישוב דירוה

(ToM) תיאורה של הילד על תודעה

�פסמטולוגיות (ﬁpsohut nitz'ek ayishah)


**Goals:**
The course concerns personal epistemology: how people understand the nature of knowledge and how knowledge is created and justified. Such understanding may influence how people reason and learn. The course will examine children's Theory of Mind and different perspectives on personal epistemology. There will be a focus on school where the acquisition, use, and construction of knowledge lie at the center of school activity. Topics will include Theory of Mind, epistemological development, the assessment of epistemological understanding, expertise, and the nature of knowledge in school disciplines and everyday contexts. There will be two field assignments: The first will examine Theory of Mind among children and the second will check Personal Epistemology among children, adolescents, or adults.

**Course Chapters:**

1. Epistemology – philosophical perspective
   - What is knowledge? Different perspectives on the way we accumulate knowledge, interactions between conceptions of knowledge and reality, and how different epistemological positions influence how we explore and understand processes of knowing.

2. Theory of Mind
   - a. Research on children's Theory of Mind
   - b. Cultural and Theory of Mind and the source of Theory of Mind in social interaction
   - c. Theory of Mind and inference

3. Psychological approaches to Personal Epistemology
   - Epistemology and knowledge construction in academic disciplines
     - structure, goals, expert status, and disciplinary knowledge
   - Epistemological Development
     - How is it characterized, and how does epistemological development fit in with theories of cognitive development?
   - Different perspectives on the nature of knowledge and knowing.
     - Is basis of epistemological outlook beliefs, theories, cognitive understandings, context?
     - Are understandings of what knowledge is and the process of knowing dependent on each other, do they develop over time, and how are they characterized?
     - Methods and measurement
     - Gender and culture

5. Reasoning ability and knowledge justification
   - a. epistemology and argumentation
   - b. narrative knowing

6. Conceptions of epistemic authority
Course requirements:

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Bibliography

**Theory of Mind**


**Personal Epistemology**


**Reasoning and Knowing**

Kuhn & Weinstock (2002). [see above]


**Epistemic Authority**