

## Midterm Paper

### The Question

Your paper should address the following question:

- Do we have justification to form beliefs on the basis of perception only if we have independent justification to believe that perception is reliable?

### Guidelines

Your paper should include the following components:

- (1) An **introduction** that explains the question and its significance.
- (2) A **brief overview** of the paper that includes a statement of the thesis that you will be arguing for.
- (3) A **valid skeptical argument** for the conclusion that none of our perceptual beliefs about the external world are justified. Note: your argument should include the premise that we have justification to form beliefs on the basis of perception only if we have independent justification to believe that perception is reliable.
- (4) An **anti-skeptical response** that rejects one of the premises of the skeptical argument. Note: you should present either James Pryor's or Crispin Wright's response to the skeptical argument.
- (5) A **critical discussion** of the anti-skeptical response that includes at least one objection and a reply. Note: your critical discussion can repeat moves you've encountered in the readings or in class, but it should also make some distinctive, original contribution to the debate.
- (6) A **brief summary** that explains how your critical discussion supports the thesis of your paper.

### Instructions for Submission

- Please email your paper to the teacher's assistant before class on **Monday 7 April**.
- Papers will be graded **anonymously** so please include your **MIT student number** not your **name**.
- Your paper should be no more than 5 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.
- You should include an additional page listing all references you have used in writing your paper.
- Late papers will be penalized by a third of a letter grade repeating every 24 hrs after the deadline.

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24.211 Theory of Knowledge  
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