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**HF952-A – SEMINÁRIO DE ORIENTAÇÃO EM FILOSOFIA  
DA LINGUAGEM E DO CONHECIMENTO II**

**PROF. MARCO ANTONIO CARON RUFFINO**

**2º SEMESTRE/2017**

Epistemic Normativity

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The focus of this graduate seminar will be on issues of normativity in epistemology. It is widely thought that our beliefs and our ways of forming and revising them are subject to a variety of normative appraisals and criticisms: we praise or criticize people for having/lacking justification for their beliefs, for being rational/irrational, for having correct/incorrect beliefs, etc. That is, central notions of epistemology – such as justification, rationality, or truth – seem to have an essentially normative dimension. In this seminar, we will ask how the normativity of these epistemological notions can be understood: what are epistemic norms? How are we to understand the nature of these norms? What is their ultimate grounding? How do they guide our thinking?

To address these questions, we will begin with reading some relevant meta-ethical work that will serve as a background, and then move on to discuss the role of normativity in epistemological contexts more specifically. Topics include: the aim of belief, doxastic voluntarism, reasoning, the normativity of rationality, reasons for belief, constitutivist accounts of epistemic normativity.

**READINGS INCLUDE:**

David Velleman, “On the Aim Of Belief”

Ralph Wedgwood, “The Aim of Belief”

Nishi Shah, “How Truth Governs Belief”

John Broome, Rationality Through Reasoning (selections)

Niko Kolodny, “Why Be Rational?”

Conor McHugh/Jonathan Way, “What is Reasoning?”

Matthew Boyle, “Making Up Your Mind and the Activity of Reason