

# Masterclass on Epistemic Utility Theory *with Richard Pettigrew*

*What are the norms that govern our beliefs and our degrees of belief? How should my degree of belief that I am in Bristol relate to my degree of belief that I am in England? How should I set my degrees of belief before I learn any evidence? How should I then update them in the light of new evidence? How should I respond to evidence concerning objective chances or my future beliefs or a disagreement with my peers? How should I aggregate the different degrees of belief of a group of experts? Accuracy-first epistemology (or epistemic utility theory) provides a unified framework in which to provide principled answers to these questions and justifications for the norms that result. It is a teleological approach — it identifies a particular goal for beliefs and degrees of belief, and establishes norms for those doxastic states by arguing that obeying the norms best serves the end of achieving those goals. In this masterclass, I'll describe the framework, situate it in the landscape of epistemology, explore the norms that have already been treated in the framework, explain the justifications that have been given for them, and look ahead to future avenues for research.*

## Programme

### Thursday, April 27th

King's building, room K0.16

11:00-12:30 Lecture 1

14:00-15:30 Lecture 2

16:00-17:30 Invited talk: Jason Konek (Kent)

### Friday, April 28th

Strand building, rooms S3.40 and S3.32

11:00-12:30 Lecture 3 (room S3.40)

14:00-15:30 Lecture 4 (room S3,32)

16:00-17:30 Invited talk: Julien Dutant (KCL) (room S3.32)

### Saturday, April 29th

Strand building, room S3.32

11:00-12:30 Lecture 5

14:00-15:30 Lecture 6

16:00-17:30 Invited talk: Clayton Littlejohn (KCL)

Attendance is free. Registration required:

<https://kingsphilosophy.com/>

Organized by the Formal Methods research group,  
KCL's Philosophy Department.