

# What is Knowledge?

by David Barnett

# What is it to know $p$ ?

$x$  knows  $p$  iff

i.  $x$  believes  $p$

# What is it to know $p$ ?

$x$  knows  $p$  iff

- i.  $x$  believes  $p$
- ii.  $p$  is true

# What is it to know p?

Traditional Theory of Knowledge:  
Justified True Belief (JTB)

x knows p iff

i. x believes p

ii. p is true

iii. x is justified in believing p

# Gettier's Counterexample

# STEP 1

- I see your Alaska driver's license.
- This seems to justify me in believing:
  - (1) that you are from Alaska.


# STEP 2

- On the basis of my belief  
(1) that you are from Alaska
- I infer  
(2) that someone in this class is from Alaska.
- Because I am justified in believing (1), and because (2) follows (by a valid inference) from (1), I am justified in believing (2).

# STEP 3

- The driver's license I saw is actually a fake: You are not from Alaska.
- Hence:
  - The following belief of mine is *false*:
    - (1) that you are from Alaska
  - I have a false justified belief in (1)
  - JTB Theory implies, correctly, that I do not know (1).

# STEP 4

- But:
    - Someone *e/*se in this class is from Alaska!
  - Hence:
    - My belief:
      - (2) that someone in this class is from Alaska
-  is *true!*

# STEP 5

Consider (2):

(2) that someone in this class is from Alaska

Do I *know* (2)? **No.**

Is (2) *true*? **Yes.**

Do I *believe* (2)? **Yes.**

Am I *justified* in believing (2)? **Yes.**

JTB  $\neq$  Knowledge

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Gettier Counterexample!

# Other Gettier-style Counterexamples

- The Hallucination
- Russell's Clock
- The Sheep in the Field

# What is it to know p?

x knows p iff

- i. x believes p
- ii. p is true
- iii. x is justified in believing p
- iv. The Gettier Condition (what is it?)