



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 561.01 Lecture 01
TOPICS IN EPISTEMOLOGY:
PROBABILITY AND EPISTEMOLOGY

Winter Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: Mon/Wed 11:00-12:15 in SS1253

Instructor: Bengt Autzen (Sponsor: Marc Ereshefsky)

Office: SS1206

Phone: 403-210-7957

Office Hours: Mon and Wed 13:00-14:00

Email: bcautzen@ucalgary.ca

Required Text

D. Gillies. 2000. *Philosophical Theories of Probability*. London: Routledge.

Topics

Interpretations of Probability (Logical Interpretation, Subjective Interpretation, Frequency Interpretation, Propensity Interpretation)

Probabilistic Theories of Evidence and Confirmation (Bayesianism, Likelihoodism, Error Statistics)

Theory of Rational Acceptance

Coherence Theory of Justification

Reliabilist Theory of Justification

Evaluation and Grading

Text Analysis

5 text analyses are required. Each analysis must be handed in before we discuss that text in class.

In an analysis, describe a particular point or argument in the reading. Then critically analyze that point, or pose a question about it, or provide an independent argument in support of that point.

The text analysis is not a summary of the entire reading, but an analysis of a portion of the text. The maximum length for a text analysis is 3 pages.

Paper Proposal

The paper proposal will consist of two parts. The first part will explain and motivate the focus of your research by answering these questions: i) What is the general topic area? ii) What are the main views on the topic? iii) What will your focus in that area be? The second part of the proposal will contain a section-by-section outline of how you plan to construct your research paper. Dedicate a paragraph to describing each section of the proposed paper. The proposal should be no more than 5 pages long. Devote at least 2.5 pages to the first part of the proposal. Also attach a bibliography.

Paper

The word maximum length is 4,000 words (including footnotes, excluding the bibliography and any diagram notation).

Style and Citation Requirements

- All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies. Work must be double-spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Whenever you quote someone, provide the source and page numbers from that source. Here's an example: Dr. Black says that "all kittens are incredibly cute" (1993, p. 46). '(1993, p. 46)' refers to the article or book and page number where Dr. Black says that. Place detailed information about the article or book in your bibliography.
- Whenever you attribute a view or idea to a person, provide the source and page number where that claim is made. Here's an example: Dr. White likes kittens, but argues that puppies are far cuter (1994, p. 333).
- Use the following method for listing articles and books in your bibliography.
 - Smith, D. (1997) "A Theory of Cats," *Philosophy of Science* 44: 60-88.
 - Smith, D. (1998) *A New Theory of Cats*, Blackwell Publishers.
 - Smith, D. (1992) "A Theory of Great Cats," in J. Armstrong (ed.) *An Anthology on Theories of Great Cats*, Oxford University Press, 60-88.
 - Canto, P. (2006). "A Theoretical Discussion of Cats." <http://ohiou.edu/CatTheory>.The first entry is for an article, the second for a book, the third for a chapter in an edited book, and the fourth for a web site.

Due Dates and Grade Values

Paper Proposal	March 21	10 points
Text Analyses	All completed by April 04	10 points each (50 points total)
Paper	April 13	40 points

There is NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Please note that late papers will not be accepted.

Final grades will be awarded as follows

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

BlackBoard and Email

Class information and handouts will be posted on BlackBoard. You'll be sent class announcements through email. The email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar, so make sure to check that account.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments, papers, and exams be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless otherwise arranged in writing and approved by the Department Administrator.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca arts3@su.ucalgary.ca arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).