



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 661.01 Lec 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.

Presentation

One presentation is required. Your task is not to summarize the text or present all the material in it.

Your aim is to present some information about the reading that will stimulate class discussion. Pick a particular argument that is central in the text. Briefly present that argument. Then start discussion by raising concerns, problems, or a supporting argument concerning that argument.

Plan on leading the class for 10 to 15 minutes.

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 5,000 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	8 points each (40 points total)
Presentation	-	10 points
Paper	April 13	40 points

There is NO Registrar-scheduled final examination.

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.