

Syllabus

G83.3003: Topics in Epistemology
Spring 2007, Friday 12:00-2:00
Chris Meacham (cm131@nyu.edu)

Week 1. (1/19): Introduction to Bayesian Decision Theory and Reflection

—No reading.

Week 2. (1/26): Objective and Subjective Bayesianism

—North, “Symmetry and Probability”

—White, (Sections 1+2) “Epistemic Permissiveness”

—[Optional:] Commentary: White’s Arguments for Objective Bayesianism

Week 3. (2/26): Maximizing Expected Epistemic Utility Arguments for Bayesianism

—Arntzenius, “Rationality and Self-Confidence”

Week 4. (2/9): Diachronic Dutch Book Arguments (I)

—Lewis, “Why Conditionalize?”

—Christensen, “Clever Bookies and Coherent Beliefs”

Week 5. (2/16): Diachronic Dutch Book Arguments (II)

—Christensen, “Dutch Book Arguments Depragmatized”

—Arntzenius, (Section 1) “Some Problems for Conditionalization and Reflection”

Week 6. (2/23): Synchronic Dutch Book Arguments

—Weisberg, (Section 2.2) Credence and Credibility

—Weatherson, “Begging the Question and Bayesians”

Week 7. (3/2): Representation Theorem Arguments (I)

—Christensen, “Preference Based Arguments for Probabilism”

Week 8. (3/9): Representation Theorem Arguments (II)

—Weisberg and Meacham, “Against Representation Theorems”

(3/16): No Class

Week 9. (3/23): Chance and Credence (I)

—Lewis, “A Subjectivist’s Guide to Objective Chance”, and Postscript

Week 10. (3/30): Chance and Credence (II)

—Meacham, “Three Proposals for a Theory of Chance”

—[Optional:] Commentary: Two Issues Regarding the Third Proposal

Week 11. (4/6): Chance and Credence (III)

—Strevens, “Objective Probability as a Guide to the World”

Week 12. (4/13): Self Locating Beliefs (I)

—Elga, “Self-Locating Beliefs and the Sleeping Beauty Problem”

—Meacham, “Sleeping Beauty and the Dynamics of De Se Beliefs”

—[Optional:] Commentary: Calculating the Costs of the Counterintuitive Consequences of Compartmentalized Conditionalization

Week 13. (4/20): Self Locating Beliefs (II)

—Hitchcock, “Beauty and the Bets”

—Arntzenius, “Reflections on Sleeping Beauty”

—[Optional:] Commentary: Dutch Books and Self-Locating Beliefs

Week 14. (4/27): Self Locating Beliefs (III)

—Meacham, “Continuant Conditionalization”

And, if I can sneak it in somewhere:

Week ?: Convergence Arguments for Bayesianism

—Earman, (Chapter 6) of Bayes or Bust