

Spring, 2011: Philosophy 3865

Probability and Epistemology

Professor Joel Velasco

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:25-2:40, GSH G76

Course Website: <http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/jdv55/teaching/3865/>

Description:

This course will examine a few aspects of the relationship between probability and epistemology. In doing so, we will look at the foundations of probability theory, interpretations of probability, arguments for and against probabilism (the view that we ought to have degrees of belief that are probabilities), conditionalization, Bayesian confirmation theory, confirmational holism, and finally, the relationship between degrees of belief and binary beliefs.

Requirements:

Attendance in class and participation in discussion are required and will affect your grade. There will be a mix of both homework assignments and papers.

Office hours:

My office hours are Mon 11:00-12:00 and Thur 3:00-4:00, or by appointment, in 228 Goldwin Smith Hall.

Books available at the university bookstore:

Ian Hacking, Introduction to Probability and Inductive Logic, Cambridge University Press, 2001

List of Topics:

Basic Logic and Venn Diagrams

Elementary Probability Theory

Conditional Probability

Interpreting Probabilities

Probabilism and Degrees of Belief

Bayesian Confirmation Theory

Bayesian Epistemology

Probabilities and Mainstream Epistemology