

**Philosophy 163 -- Probability -- Spring 2003**  
**Elliott Sober**

We will work through most of Ian Hacking's *An Introduction to Probability and Inductive Logic* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), which is available at the bookstore. You should do the exercises at the end of the chapters. Richard Royall's book (see weeks 7-8) also has been ordered, but we will discuss only half of it. Additional readings are described below. My office hours, in 90-92J, are Wednesdays 2-4, or by appointment.

week	topic	readings
1-2	probability basics	Hacking 1-7.
2-3	the design argument	Paley, <i>Natural Theology</i> , chapter 1 ( <a href="http://www-phil.tamu.edu/~gary/intro/paper.paley.html">http://www-phil.tamu.edu/~gary/intro/paper.paley.html</a> ); Gould, "The Panda's Thumb" in <i>The Panda's Thumb and Other Essays</i> , Norton, 1980; Sober, "The Design Argument" ( <a href="http://philosophy.wisc.edu/sober/">http://philosophy.wisc.edu/sober/</a> ).
3-4	Hume on miracles	Hume, "On Miracles." <i>Enquiry</i> , X: 1-2; Owen, <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> 1987, 147: 187-202 (JSTOR); Earman, "Hume, Price, Bayes."
5	interpretations of probability	Hacking 11-12; Hájek, "Probability, Interpretations of" in <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> ( <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/probability-interpret">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/probability-interpret</a> )
6	Bayesianism	Hacking 13-15.
7-8	frequentism	Hacking 16-19; Royall, <i>Statistical Evidence -- a Likelihood Paradigm</i> , chs 1-3.
9-10	problem of induction	Hacking 20-22; Hume, <i>Treatise</i> , I:3; Salmon, excerpts from his <i>Foundations of Scientific Inference</i> ; Haack, "The Justification of Deduction", <i>Mind</i> , 1976 85: 112-119 (JSTOR).

Undergraduates are required to write two papers (each should be about eight pages, double-spaced). The first is due at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> week; the second is due during finals week. Graduate students are required to write one paper (about sixteen pages, double-spaced), due during finals week. All papers are to be submitted hardcopy, not electronically.