

Philosophy 920 – Probability in Philosophy
Elliott Sober – Fall, 2001

1-2. Probability Basics

Sober, “An Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology;” Skyrms, *Choice and Chance* (4th ed., Wadsworth, 2000), chs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8; Sober, “Bayesianism – Its Scope and Limits” (on my web site).

3-4. Philosophy of Religion

The argument from design – Sober, “The Design Argument” (on my web site).

Pascal’s wager – Alan Hájek, “Pascal’s Wager,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (on line at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pascal-wager/>); Gregory Mougin and Elliott Sober, “Betting Against Pascal’s Wager,” *Nous*, 1994, 28: 382-395 (can be found at www.jstor.org).

5-6. Epistemology

Quine, Duhem, and confirmational holism – Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism.” *From a Logical Point of View*, Harvard University Press, 1951; Sober, “Quine’s Two Dogmas.” *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 2000, Supplementary Volume 74: 237-280.

Indispensability arguments and mathematics – Putnam, “Indispensability Arguments,” in *Philosophy of Logic*. Harper & Row, 1971, pp. 57-74; Sober, “Mathematics and Indispensability,” *Philosophical Review*, 1993, 102: 35-58 (can be found at www.jstor.org).

Empirically equivalent theories – Carnap, “Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology.” In *Meaning and Necessity* (University of Chicago Press, 1956); Quine “On Carnap’s View of Ontology.” In *The Ways of Paradox* (Harvard University Press, 1966); Sober, “Testability” (on my web site).

7-8. Metaphysics

Probabilistic causality – Cartwright, “Causal Laws and Effective Strategies,” *Nous*, 1979, 13: 419-437 (can be found at www.jstor.org).

The principle of the common cause – Sober, “The Principle of the Common Cause,” in *From a Biological Point of View*, CUP, 1994; “Venetian Sea Levels, British Bread Prices, and the PCC.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2001, 52: 1-16

9-10. Philosophy of Mind

The problem of other minds – Sober, “Evolution and the Problem of Other Minds.” *Journal of Philosophy*, 2000, 97: 365-386.

The causal efficacy of the mental – Kim, “Does the Problem of Mental Causation Generalize?” *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 1997 ; Sober, “Physicalism from a Probabilistic Point of View.” *Philosophical Studies*, 1999, 95: 135-174 (can be found on my web site).

11-15. Ethics and Political Philosophy

The prisoners’ dilemma and other games – Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*; Skyrms, *The Evolution of the Social Contract*.