

Philosophy 920 – Fall, 2002
Elliott Sober

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| 1 | Quine versus Carnap on Analyticity | WV Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" (in <i>From a Logical Point of View</i>), and "Truth by Convention" (in <i>Ways of Paradox</i>). Carnap, "Quine on Logical Truth" (in the Schilpp volume on Carnap). Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology" (in <i>Meaning and Necessity</i>). Quine, "Carnap on Ontology" (in <i>Ways of Paradox</i>). |
| 2 | | E. Sober, "An Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology," handout available at http://philosophy.wisc.edu/sober . E. Sober, "Quine's Two Dogmas," <i>Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society</i> , 2000, Supplementary Volume 74: 237-280. |
| 3 | Criteria of testability/meaning/demarcation | C. Hempel, "Empiricist Criteria of Cognitive Significance -- Problems and Changes." In <i>Aspects of Scientific Explanation and Other Essays</i> . Free Press, 1965, 101-122. L. Laudan, "The Demise of the Demarcation Problem," In R.S. Cohen and L. Laudan (eds.), <i>Physics, Philosophy, and Psychoanalysis</i> . Dordrecht: Reidel, 1983, pp. 111-127. B. Skyrms, <i>Pragmatics and Empiricism</i> . Yale University Press, Ch 1. E. Sober, "Testability," <i>Proceedings and Addresses of the APA</i> , 1999, 73: 47-76. Available at http://philosophy.wisc.edu/sober . |
| 4 | The Indispensability of Mathematics | P. Maddy (1992): "Indispensability and Practice." <i>J. Phil.</i> 89: 275-89. E. Sober, "Mathematics and Indispensability," <i>Phil. Rev.</i> , 1993, 102: 35-58. Mark Colyvan, <i>The Indispensability of Mathematics</i> , Oxford, 2001, chs. 5-6. |
| 5-6 | A Kantian anti-holism | Michael Friedman, <i>The Dynamics of Reason</i> . CSLI Publications, Stanford, 2001. |
| 7-10 | Constructive Empiricism | B. Van Fraassen, <i>The Scientific Image</i> , Oxford UP, 1980, pp. 1-96. B. Van Fraassen, <i>The Empirical Stance</i> , Yale University Press, 2002. |
| 11 | Contrastive Empiricism | E. Sober, "Contrastive Empiricism," In <i>From a Biological Point of View</i> , Cambridge University Press, 1994, and E. Sober "Epistemology for Empiricists." In H. Wettstein (ed.), <i>Midwest Studies in Philosophy: Philosophy of Science</i> , vol. 18, University of Notre Dame Press, 1993, pp. 39-61. |
| 12-13 | Observation | Fred Dretske, <i>Knowledge and the Flow of Information</i> , MIT, 1981, ch 6; Fred Dretske, <i>Seeing and Knowing</i> , U of Chicago Pr, 1967, pp 78-93. |
| 14 | The "super-empirical virtues" | H. Reichenbach, "Two Kinds of Simplicity," In <i>Experience and Prediction</i> , U of Chicago Press, 1938, pp. 373-86. K. Popper, "Simplicity," ch 7 in <i>Logic of Scientific Discovery</i> , Hutchinson, 1959. C. Howson, "On the Consistency of Jeffreys' Simplicity Postulate and its Role in Bayesian Inference." <i>Phil. Quart.</i> , 1988, 38: 68-83; E. Sober, "Let's Razor Ockham's Razor" in <i>From a Biological Point of View</i> , Cambridge UP, 1994. |
| 15 | Model Selection, parsimony, instrumentalism | E. Sober, "Parsimony," available on my web site. M. Forster and E. Sober, "How to Tell When Simpler, More Unified, or Less <i>Ad Hoc</i> Theories Will Provide More Accurate Predictions." <i>British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i> 1994, 45: 1-36. Available at http://philosophy.wisc.edu/forster . Kyle Sanford, "Instrumentalism." E. Sober, "Instrumentalism, Parsimony, and the Akaike Framework," available at Sober's web site. |