

PHIL4292
Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy: Bayesian Philosophy
當代英美哲學：貝叶斯哲學

Course Outline

Time: M 10:30am-1:15pm	Location: LHC G03
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Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course discusses major issues, theories, and figures in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy. Topics may include: philosophy of language, epistemology, mind and consciousness, ethics, moral psychology, and political philosophy.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Topic Introduction:

This course is an introduction to Bayesian philosophy and its applications in epistemology and the philosophy of science. It has two parts. The first part introduces the basics of Bayesian framework. The second part discusses their applications in epistemology and the philosophy of science. Topics include the belief–credence relation, confirmation, causation, and explanation.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a range of problems, concepts, and theories in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy pertaining to the specific topic of the course in a particular semester.
2. In their papers, students should also demonstrate the ability to identify a significant philosophical problem and formulate and defend a thesis of their own concerning it.

Topics

Subjective Probability Theory, the belief–credence relation, confirmation, causation, and explanation.

Learning activities

Lecture, Discussion, and Tutorial.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Attendance and participation		15%
Homework		25%
Presentation		20%
Final paper		40%

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

Michael Titelbaum (2022), *Fundamentals of Bayesian Epistemology*.

Jan Sprenger & Stephan Hartmann (2019), *Bayesian Philosophy of Science*.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>
1	Basics of Bayesianism (I): Probabilism	Titelbaum, Ch. 1 & Ch. 2	
2	Basics of Bayesianism (II): Conditionalization	Titelbaum, §§3.1 – 3.2; §§4.1– 4.3	
3	Bayesian Decision Theory	Steele 2020, "Decision Theory", <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , § 2.3 and §3.1	
4	Belief and Credence (I)	Christensen, D. (2004) <i>Putting Logic in its Place</i> , Chapter 2 Dorst, K. (2019). Lockeans Maximizes Expected Accuracy, <i>Mind</i>	
5	Belief and Credence (II)	Dorst, K. and M. Mandelkern. (2022). Good Guesses. <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> .	

6	Bayesian Confirmation	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 1	
7	No class (Lunar New Year Vacation)		
8	Scientific Realism and No Miracles Argument	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 3.	
9	The Problem of Old Evidence	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 5.	
10	Causal Strength	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 6.	
11	Explanatory Power	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 7.	
12	Intertheoretic Reduction	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 8.	
13	Simplicity and Model Selection	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 10.	
14	No class (The Day Following Ching Ming)		
15	Scientific Objectivity	Sprenger & Hartmann, Variation 11.	

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Ye Ru
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TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

AI Use Policy Note:

All use of AI tools is prohibited for this course. You are not allowed to use any AI tools in any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards your final grade of the course. You are expected to produce your own work independently without any collaboration or use of AI tools.