Theories of rationality
MA Program in Philosophy (Philosophy International Curriculum)
University of Turin, 2019-2020

In order to obtain the relevant credits (6), students will have to comply with (I) AND (II) below.

(I) Mandatory readings for the oral exam (all texts will be available in Materiale didattico on the course webpage):

– I. HACKING, An Introduction to Probability and Inductive Logic (Cambridge University Press): pp. xi-126 (chapters 1-10);

– ONE chosen among (1)-(7) below (see the list in section II);


Alternatively: Written test (early June) on the topics discussed during the lecture series, including the key reading assignments addressed, namely (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) (but not the other material indicated below or in the Moodle page of the course).

(II) A written essay (roughly 2.000 / 3.000 words) on one of the topics below.

The essay must be submitted by email no less than one week before the chosen oral examination session, and will also have to be briefly discussed during the oral examination (such discussion will partly contribute to the final assessment).

What is required in the essay is the presentation and explanation of the key aspects of the topic selected, with appropriate appreciation of correct terminology and relevant argumentation. Suggested readings are, well, suggested: it is unlikely that a very good essay will come out if they are disregarded, but one should not be worried that all material be covered explicitly in the essay itself.

All readings will be made available in Materiale didattico on the course webpage.

Topic: PROBABILITY JUDGMENT and THE CONJUNCTION FALLACY


Further suggested material:


(1b) G. GIGERENZER, “I think, therefore I err”. In Rationality for Mortals: How People Cope with Uncertainty (Oxford University Press, 2008): pp. 65-79


(1d) V. CRUPI (2016), “Razionalità, ragionamento e cognizione”. In M. Dell’Utri and A. Rainone (eds.), I modi della razionalità (pp. 81-98).
Topic: **BAYESIAN REASONING and BASE-RATE NEGLECT**


Further suggested material:


Topic: **DECISION MAKING and FRAMING**


Further suggested material:


Topic: **THE WASON TASK and CONFIRMATION BIAS**


Further suggested material:


Topic: **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY PUZZLE and SELF-LOCATING EVIDENCE**

Further suggested material:


Topic: **NEWCOMB’S PROBLEM and DECISION THEORY**


Further suggested material:


Topic: **TROLLEY DILEMMAS and MORAL DECISIONS**

(7) D. EDMONDS, “Matters of life and death”. *Prospect*, 7 October 2015 (here: [https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/ethics-trolley-problem](https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/ethics-trolley-problem))

Further suggested material: