

1B METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY (1/4)

Choose **one** of the following. The readings suggested do not exhaust the topic; you may, if you wish, go beyond the list provided. Your essay is due by **24 hours prior to the time of our supervision**. You may submit it by either (a) leaving a hard copy in my pigeonhole at Newnham College, or (b) sending an electronic copy by email. Please double-space your work in order to leave room for my comments. Essays should be approximately 3000 words in length.

(1) What is a *priori* knowledge? Is there any such knowledge?

Readings: (NB: Don't worry if you don't read all of these. The starred items are ones to pay particular attention to.)

MOSER, P. (ed.), *A Priori Knowledge* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

In particular, sections by

Ayer

**Quine*

Kripke

**Putnam*

But the whole volume is very useful.

CASSAM, Q., *The Possibility of Knowledge* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), ch. 6.

*KRIPKE, S., 'Identity and Necessity', in A.W. Moore, ed., *Meaning and Reference* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994). Reprinted in T. Honderich & M. Burnyeat, eds., *Philosophy As It Is* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1979).

****OR****

(2) Must we be sceptics?

Readings:

*UNGER, P., 'A Defense of Skepticism', *Philosophical Review*, 80 (1971): 198-219. Reprinted in S. Bernecker and F. Dretske, eds, *Knowledge* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

WILLIAMSON, T., 'Knowledge and Scepticism', in F. Jackson and M. Smith, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

DEROSE, K., 'Solving the Skeptical Problem', *Philosophical Review*, 104 (1995): 1-52. Reprinted in E. Sosa, ed., et al *Epistemology: An Anthology* (Oxford: Blackwell,

2008)

*LEWIS, D., 'Elusive Knowledge', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 74 (1996): 459-67.
Reprinted in E. Sosa, ed., et. al. *Epistemology: An Introduction* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008).

*MOORE, G.E., 'Extracts From "Proof of an External World", "Four Forms of Scepticism" And "Certainty"', in E. Sosa, et al., eds., *Epistemology: An Anthology* (Oxford Blackwell, 2008).

SOSA, E., 'How to Defeat Opposition to Moore', *Philosophical Perspectives*, 13 (1999): 141-53. Reprinted in E. Sosa, ed., et. al. *Epistemology: an Anthology. 2nd ed.* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008).