

Department of Philosophy, KCL
First Year Epistemology and Methodology, 1998-99
Lectures 4 & 5: A Priori Knowledge, Induction and Confirmation

Readings

The required readings represent the bare minimum necessary for the course. You should also aim to do the recommended reading, and some at least of the supplementary reading. The McFetridge article is particularly helpful on a priori knowledge, although not easy. All the items in the Moser collection mentioned below are relevant. The Skyrms book is the best short treatment known to me of the differences between inductive and deductive reasoning, and of the problems of induction. All philosophy majors should have it.

Required:

Adam Morton, *A Guide Through the Theory of Knowledge*, chapters 3 and 4.

Recommended:

Jonathan Dancy, *An Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology*, chapters 13 and 14.

Willard v. Quine, "Two dogmas of empiricism", in Moser (ed).

Brian Skyrms, *Choice and Chance*, 3rd. ed., chapters 1 and 2.

Nelson Goodman, *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*

Supplementary:

Ian McFetridge, "Explicating 'x knows a priori that p' ", in *his Logical Necessity and Other Essays*.

Paul Moser, ed., *A Priori Knowledge* (in the Oxford Readings series).

Mark Sainsbury, *Paradoxes*, chapter 4.