

Scepticism

A. Compulsory Readings

- Descartes, R., *Meditations on First Philosophy*, translated by Cottingham, J., CUP (1986), Meditation I.
- DeRose, K., and Warfield, T. (eds.), *Scepticism: a Contemporary Reader*, OUP (1999), chapter 1.
- Putnam, H., 'Brains in a vat', in Putnam, H., *Reason, Truth, and History*, CUP (1981). Reprinted in DeRose and Warfield (eds.).

B. Optional Readings

Note: each paper on this list is individually optional, but please read at least one of these!

- Chalmers, D., 'The matrix as Metaphysics' (<http://consc.net/papers/matrix.html>)
- Hill, C., 'Process Reliabilism and Cartesian Scepticism', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 56 (1996), pp. 567-581. Reprinted in DeRose and Warfield.
- Stroud, B., 'Understanding human knowledge in general', in Bernecker, S., and Dretske, F. (eds.), *Knowledge: readings in contemporary epistemology*, OUP (2000).
- Stein, G., 'Skepticism, Relevant Alternatives, and Deductive Closure', *Philosophical Studies* 29 (1976), pp. 249-261. Reprinted in DeRose and Warfield.
- Lewis, D., 'Elusive Knowledge', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 74 (1996), pp. 549-567. Reprinted in DeRose and Warfield.
- Any other readings from DeRose and Warfield or part IV of Bernecker and Drestke.

C. Essay

Write an essay addressing one of the following questions:

1. How do you know you are not a brain in a vat?
2. Is there a defensible position according to which you don't know that you are not a brain in a vat but you do know that you have hands?