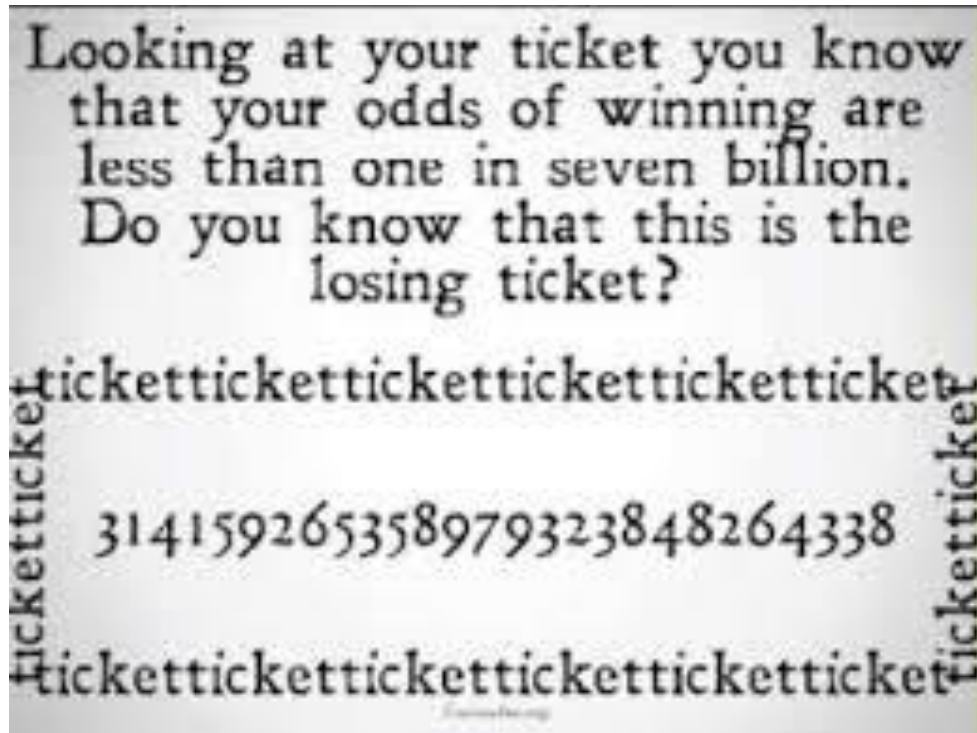


# Philosophy 5750: Knowledge, Certainty, and Proof



This course will examine the connections between knowledge, certainty, and proof. The course is divided into three parts:

- In part 1, we'll examine the skeptical argument that we cannot know anything at all, since nothing is certain. We'll discuss why skepticism is hard to swallow and whether avoiding skepticism requires denying that knowledge requires certainty.
- In part 2, we'll examine the distinction between belief and credence, and some related puzzles in epistemology, including the lottery paradox and the preface paradox.
- In part 3, we'll discuss standards of proof in the law, and we'll examine some puzzles in legal epistemology, including the proof paradox.

Readings will be drawn from Peter Unger, David Lewis, Jason Stanley, Gilbert Harman, Richard Foley, John Hawthorne, David Christensen, Sarah Moss, and Georgi Gardiner among others.

**Instructor: Declan Smithies**

**Time: Wednesday & Friday, 2:20 – 3:40 PM**

**Teaching Mode: Distance Learning**