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Phil 24.211, Spring 2014

Final Paper

The Question

Your paper should address the following question:

- Does the lottery paradox show that we don't know much about the external world?

Guidelines

Your paper should include the following components:

(1) An **introduction** that explains the question and its significance.

(2) A **brief overview** of the paper that includes a statement of the thesis that you will be arguing for.

(3) A **presentation** of the lottery paradox in the form of an inconsistent set of claims.

(4) A potential **solution** to the lottery paradox that rejects one of the claims in the inconsistent set.

(5) A **critical discussion** of this potential solution that includes at least one objection and at least one reply to the objection. NB: your critical discussion can repeat moves you've encountered in the readings or in class, but it should also make some distinctive, original contribution to the debate.

(6) A **brief summary** that explains how your critical discussion supports the thesis of your paper.

Instructions for Submission

- Please **email** your paper to the teacher's assistant before class on **Wednesday 14 May**.

- Papers will be graded **anonymously** so please include your **MIT student number** not your **name**.

- Your paper should be no more than **8 pages**, double-spaced, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.

- You should include an additional page listing all **references** you have used in writing your paper.

- **Late papers** will be penalized by a third of a letter grade repeating every 24 hrs after the deadline.

Suggestions for Further Reading

- *Moorean solutions*: Ch. 1, sections 1-3 & Ch. 3 sections 6-8

- *Closure-denying solutions*: Ch. 1, sections 4-6

- *Contextualist solutions*: Ch. 2, sections 1, 3-4, 6

- *Skeptical solutions*: Ch. 3, sections 1-5

- *Pragmatist solutions*: Ch. 4, sections 1-6

All references are to John Hawthorne's *Knowledge and Lotteries*:
http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/0199269556.001.0001/acprof-9780199269556

24.211 Theory of Knowledge
Spring 2014