

PHIL 50 (10A): Paradoxes of Decision and Belief
Summer 2009
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The course will provide a gentle introduction to decision theory, and its many applications in philosophy. These applications include applications to fundamental problems in ethics and epistemology, as well as to debates about political philosophy and rationality. The literature in this area is often rather technical, but most of the basic ideas can be introduced via a series of easily accessible but endlessly controversial paradoxes. The course will primarily focus on theories about how we ought to make choices and form beliefs, but it will also look at the empirical literature which suggests that we are in many ways systematically irrational.