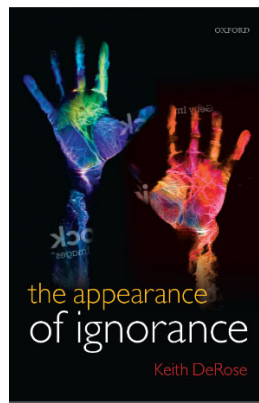


(I'm not expecting anyone to share my fascination with the use of hands in philosophical discussions of skepticism, but I'm putting this up in case anyone is interested in Moore's "Proof")



Descartes, from the 5th paragraph of Meditation I:

But right now my eyes are certainly wide awake when I gaze upon this sheet of paper. This head which I am shaking is not heavy with sleep. I extend this hand consciously and deliberately, and I feel it. Such things would not be so distinct for someone who is asleep.

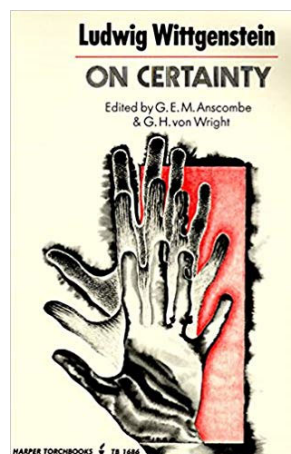
In response to Kant's remark that is at the head of our syllabus:

It still remains a scandal to philosophy . . . that the existence of things outside us . . . must be accepted merely on faith, and that, if anyone thinks good to doubt their existence, we are unable to counter his doubts by any satisfactory proof -Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*

G.E. Moore wrote his "Proof of an External World"; the key part:

It seems to me that, so far from its being true, as Kant declares to be his opinion, that there is only one possible proof of the existence of things outside of us, namely the one which he has given, I can now give a large number of different proofs, each of which is a perfectly rigorous proof; and that at many other times I have been in a position to give many others. I can prove now, for instance, that two human hands exist. How? By holding up my two hands, and saying, as I make a certain gesture with the right hand, "Here is one hand", and adding, as I make a certain gesture with the left, "and here is another".

Cover to Wittgenstein, *On Certainty*:



First sentence of the book [referencing Moore's "Proof on an External World"]:

If you do know that *here is one hand*, we'll grant you all the rest