

Third Paper Assignment

General Guidelines

1. The second paper is **due on Tuesday, November 13**. Late papers will be penalized.
2. All papers must be double spaced, three to five pages in a reasonable font (12 point Times, for example). This means approximately 750 to 1500 words. Print on only one side of each page.
3. Do not right-justify your paper.
4. Paginate your papers.
5. Observe basic rules of grammar and spelling. Proofread your paper. Ask a good writer to read and comment on your paper. I encourage use of the writing center. **Avoid jargon. Write simply, and clearly.**
6. Avoid history and bibliography. **Focus on the arguments, rather than particular authors' explications of those arguments.**
7. You may use quotes from the readings in our books by merely noting the author and page number. For example: "'Being' is obviously not a real predicate" (Kant 28). You may quote your class notes, though if you wish to quote one of the philosophers we are studying, quote him or her directly. You may use my versions of the arguments we have studied, but you need not do so. Cite class notes: "Blah blah blah" (Marcus, class notes, 8/28/07). There is no need to use other sources. If you do use another source, you must include a proper bibliographical reference, including author, title, and publishing information, or current URL. I must be able to trace the source.
8. Violations of academic integrity, like plagiarism, can and will lead to failing grades. The Hamilton College Honor Code will be enforced. I am interested in what you have to say, but I do not expect you to generate 1500 words of original scholarship. Your main task here is to be clear about what others have said, and to present it in your own way. Sometimes, for brief passages, some one else will just say it better than you can. Quote it. Cite any ideas that are not your own. (E.g. "Aquinas argues that..."; "According to Kant,...".) Remember to acknowledge any assistance you have had on your paper, including assistance from the writing center.

How to Write Your Paper

1. Pick a topic from the list below.
2. Introduce your paper by briefly stating your thesis, the conclusion you will defend. Be specific. Your paper should be an extended argument supporting your thesis. Often, it is easiest to write the introduction after you have finished writing the body of the paper. **Make sure to include a thesis statement.**
3. Argue for your thesis. Each paragraph, each sentence, should directly relate to your specific thesis.
4. Consider possible objections. Do not blindly accept what any philosopher says. Argue your own point of view, but through the writings of the philosophers.
5. Conclude your essay by summarizing what you intended to say in the paper.
6. Make sure to cover each point in the topic you choose.

Paper Topics*

1. Do we know that it is better to go out the door than to go out the window? Describe Hume's problem of induction and his reasons for thinking that induction is a problem. How does Hume's problem of induction relate to Skyrms problem of justifying inductive logic? Describe Goodman's new riddle of induction. Is it really the same as Hume's problem, or is there a difference?
2. Is science deductive? Describe Hempel's deductive-nomological (D-N) model of scientific explanation. What is the role of laws? Describe at least two problems with formulating laws of nature. Does Hume's problem of induction reveal a problem with the D-N model? Does Goodman's riddle of induction reveal a problem with the D-N model?
3. Are minds substances distinct from bodies? Consider Descartes's arguments for the mind/body distinction. Is Descartes's argument successful? Consider the problem of completeness. What is the problem of interaction? How do the behaviorist and the materialist solve the problem of interaction? Why might one prefer either of their solutions?
4. Are minds just brains? Describe Smart's defense of identity theory, including the role of theoretical identifications. What advantage does identity theory have over dualism? What is the most serious challenge for the identity theorist? Does identity theory provide a satisfactory account of our mental states?
5. Do only humans have minds? How is identity theory chauvinistic? How does functionalism avoid the problems of multiple realizability? Distinguish token physicalism from type physicalism. Does functionalism provide a more satisfying account of our mental states than identity theory?
6. Is the mind the software of the brain? How does functionalism avoid the identity theorist's problems of multiple realizability? Describe functionalism, emphasizing the role of Turing machines and the software/hardware analogy. How is Searle's Chinese Room an objection to functionalism? What other problems does functionalism have with qualia? Are the problems with qualia sufficient to reject functionalism? What kind of theory might replace it?

* Any topics other than the ones listed here must be cleared with me *in advance*.