PHIL 13195: Third 5-7 page paper

Jeff Speaks

Due: Wednesday, December 19

Below are some topics for your second full length paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get my approval by e-mail first. If you do this, the question that I approve should be on the first page of your essay. The papers should be at most 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced and with reasonable margins and font.

A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late. You are, of course, welcome to hand in your paper early. Every paper not handed to me in person must be sent to me as an e-mail attachment.

I'm very happy to give you comments on your final papers. However, I'm not happy to write comments if you are not going to look at them. Therefore, if you would like comments, you must include with your final paper an address to which I can mail the paper with comments over the holidays. Even if you do not want comments, you are welcome to email me for your grade on the final paper.

If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted under the honor code, please contact me.

1. What, if anything, do Zeno's paradoxes show about space, time, and motion?

2. Singer defends two principles, each of which seems to entail that giving a substantial amount of money to alleviate third world poverty is morally obligatory. Distinguish the principles, and say whether you think either, both, or neither is true, and why. Discuss whether you think McGinn's examples are counterexamples to either of these principles, and why.

3. Explain the problem of moral luck. What do you think is the most plausible response to the problem? Why?

4. Is it rational to believe in God on the basis of Pascal's wager? Does Pascal's discussion provide evidence for the existence of God? Can it ever be rational to believe something without any evidence?