

Second 5-7 page paper

PHIL 10100

Due: in discussion sections, Friday, December 5 (Friday, the week after Thanksgiving)

Below are four topics for your first paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get the written approval of your TA by email first. If you do this, the question that your TA approves 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.

It is your responsibility to acquaint yourselves with the University's honor code, as well as with the philosophy department's guidelines regarding plagiarism. Both are linked from the course web site.

1. We discussed several responses to the problem of the apparent incompatibility of free will and determinism. Which of these do you think is the most plausible? Why?
2. David Hume held that all knowledge belongs to one of two categories: knowledge of relations of ideas and knowledge of matters of fact. Explain this distinction and the role it plays in Hume's argument that our use of induction cannot be justified. Is Hume right that all of our knowledge falls into one of these two categories? Why or why not?
3. Explain and defend what you take to be the strongest form of psychological egoism. It may be a variant of one of the views discussed in class, or one that you come up with on your own.
4. What is the problem of moral luck? What is the best solution to it?
5. Explain Frankfurt's example of Black and Jones (given in the notes for both classes on free will). How can the example be used to defend compatibilism? Does it succeed? How should an incompatibilist respond to the example?