Third 5-7 page paper

PHIL 13195
Due: 12:30 pm, December 15
(papers will be accepted without penalty until Friday, December 19)

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Below are four topics for your third paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get my approval by email first. If you do this, the question that your 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 after 12/19.

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 description, which is available on the course web site.

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1. 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?
2. What is the problem of moral luck? What is the best solution to it?
3. Explain Pascal's Wager. Does it succeed in showing that it is rational to believe in God? Is it possible to believe something because it is likely to benefit you? Why or why not?
4. Defend a variant of either consequentialism or Kantianism, or a blend of the two. Explain how whatever view you defend is capable of handling some of the counterexamples to consequentialism and Kantianism discussed in class.