Midterm Study Guide

Philosophy 114

On the day of the exam, I will present you with two of the following prompts. You will then write an essay in response to one of those two prompts. For instructions on how to do this, see the handout “How to Write a Philosophy Essay” (available on the course website).

1. Present and explain External World Skepticism. Then, present, explain, and evaluate The Argument from Sensory Error. Finally, present, explain, and evaluate The Dreaming Argument.

2. Present and explain External World Skepticism. Then, present and explain The Evil Demon Argument. Finally, present, explain, and evaluate The Ontological Argument. (In explaining this last argument, be sure to explain how it relates back to The Evil Demon Argument.)

3. Present and explain External World Skepticism. Then, present and explain The Evil Demon Argument. Finally, present and explain The Fallibilist Reply. Do you find this response convincing? Why or why not?

4. Present and explain The Tripartite Analysis. Then, present and explain Gettier’s Argument. Finally, present, explain, and evaluate the first two proposals for revising The Tripartite Analysis.

5. Present and explain The Tripartite Analysis. Then, present and explain Gettier’s Argument. Next, present and explain the third proposal for revising The Tripartite Analysis. Finally, present, explain, and evaluate The Pop Quiz Paradox. (In evaluating the paradox, be sure to explain the relevance of the third proposal for revising The Tripartite Analysis.)

6. Present and explain The Scientific Method. Then, present and explain Nicod’s Criterion. (In explaining this criterion, be sure to explain how it relates to The Scientific Method.) Finally, present, explain, and evaluate The Raven Paradox.