

ASSIGNMENT TWO

Write 5-6 pages on *one* of the following topics. Again you want to discuss a draft of your paper with Melissa Schumacher, the writing tutor. Papers are due on session 17. Things we will be looking for are the same as last time: engagement with the readings and materials covered in class; a clearly enunciated position; your reasons for taking that position; answers to likely criticisms; evidence of thinking the issues through for yourself.

1. What do you take to be the most powerful version of the skeptical challenge? Make the challenge as vivid as you can. Then outline the most promising response. To what extent does it succeed in answering the skeptic? (It might be helpful to distinguish here the question of whether we know anything if the skeptical hypothesis is true, from the question of whether we can know anything if we cannot rule out the skeptical hypothesis.)
2. Can we give a picture of the mind that accommodates both (i) our best scientific theories of how the world, including the mind, works, and (ii) our pre-theoretical account of the mind, derived from our experience? Say where the tensions arise, and what, if anything, can be done to ameliorate them.
3. Is there an answer to the question of what constitutes personal identity? Discuss at least three contenders, and explain which you think the most plausible. What consequences, if any, does your answer have for the question of how we ought to behave?

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24.00 Problems in Philosophy
Fall 2010

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