24.119 Minds and Machines

Problem Set 4. Assigned in class #6. Due in class #7.

NB: no quotations, no paraphrases; answer in your own words.

(1) What feature of mental states is Armstrong's example of the homing rocket supposed to illustrate?

(2) Why, according to Armstrong, are "the qualities of color, sound, heat and cold...an embarrassment to the modern Materialist"? (One short paragraph.)

(3) Why does Putnam think functionalism is compatible with dualism? (One short paragraph.)

(4) Describe an objection to behaviorism (it could be one that was mentioned in class) that functionalism is supposed to address. Does it succeed in doing so?

(5) Explain Putnam's objections to the identity theory (the "brain-state hypothesis") (pp. 76-7). Briefly assess the objections.

(6) A Cartesian objection to the identity theory is that one can clearly and distinctly imagine being in pain but not being in a brain state. Could a Cartesian object in a similar way to functionalism? Explain your answer.

(7) What is the connection between Block's homunculi-headed robots (p. 96) and Putnam's condition (3) (p. 76)?