Philosophy of Mind: Essay One

Requirements

You are to submit one 8–10 page research paper on Thursday 6 March, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. A hard copy of the paper must be submitted in class.

Guidelines

Essay guidelines are available here: http://goo.gl/jrx25

Questions

• State the thesis of physicalism, distinguishing between the completeness question and the condition question (Stoljar 2009). State Hempel’s Dilemma, and explain and evaluate one response to the dilemma (Ney 2008).

• Explain the pairing problem for substance dualism (Kim 2010, pp. 50–53). Explain and evaluate one response to the problem.

• State the identity theory. Explain and evaluate the argument for the identity theory given by either Smart (1959) or Lewis (1966). Explain and evaluate one objection to the identity theory.

• Lewis (1980) argues that a theory of mind should accommodate the possibility of both mad pain and martian pain. Define mad pain and martian pain, and explain and evaluate the form of identity theory that Lewis proposes to accommodate them.

• Searle (1980) argues that instantiating a computer program is never sufficient for the existence of intentional states. Explain and evaluate his argument.
References


