Philosophy of Mind: Essay Two

Requirements
You are to submit one 8–10 page research paper on Friday 2 May, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. An electronic copy of the paper must be submitted by email to bradley.weslake@rochester.edu.

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

Questions

• State the thesis of anomalous monism, and explain how it is different from the identity theory. Explain and evaluate the objection that anomalous monism leads to epiphenomenalism (Kim 2010; Yalowitz 2012; Robb and Heil 2013, §5).

• According to the exclusion argument, if mental events are not identical to physical events then they can not cause physical events. Explain and evaluate this argument (Kim 2010; Robb and Heil 2013, §6).

• State the thesis of content externalism, and explain the argument for the position based on the twin-earth thought experiment (Kim 2010; Putnam 1975b). Explain one problem for content externalism (Kim 2010; Lau and Deutsch 2014, §§6–7).

• Nagel (1974) argues that there are facts about bat consciousness that we cannot grasp, and that we do not “at present have any conception of how [physicalism] might be true” (p. 446). Explain and evaluate these arguments, and explain how they are related (Akins 1993; Kim 2010; Nagel 1974).
References


