Philosophy of Science: Paper One

Requirements
You are to submit one 6–8 page research paper on Tuesday 6 October, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. A printed copy of the paper must be submitted in class.

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

Questions

Note: You may write on a different question, but only if you have received approval.

• Explain and evaluate Popper’s solution to the demarcation problem. Address at least one of the following questions:
  
  – According to Putnam, “in a great many important cases, scientific theories do not imply predictions at all”. What does he mean? Is this a problem for Popper?
  
  – According to Laudan, Popper’s demarcation criterion is inadequate because it provides a semantic rather than an epistemological distinction between theories. What does he mean? Is this a problem for Popper?

• Explain and evaluate Popper and Kuhn’s solutions to the demarcation problem, addressing at least one of the following questions:
  
  – According to Kuhn, Popper has focussed on an atypical variety of scientific activity. What does he mean? Is this a problem for Popper?
  
  – According to Kuhn, it is typically the scientist rather than the scientific theory that is tested. What does he mean? Is this a problem for Popper?