Philosophy of Science: Paper Two

Requirements
You are to submit one 6–8 page research paper on Tuesday 10 November, 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 Hume’s argument that induction cannot be justified, addressing the following questions:
  – What is Hume’s argument against a deductive justification of induction?
  – What is Hume’s argument against an inductive justification of induction?
  – Explain and evaluate one reply that might be made to Hume’s argument.

• Explain the problem of the ravens, addressing the following questions:
  – What are the assumptions that lead to the problem?
  – Explain and evaluate one reply to the problem.

• Explain Goodman’s new problem of induction, addressing the following questions:
  – What is the target of Goodman’s argument?
  – What is wrong with the objection to the argument according to which the problem with “grue” and “bleen” is that they are defined with respect to a particular time?
  – Explain and evaluate one reply that might be made to Goodman’s argument.
• Explain and evaluate Okruhlik’s main argument in “Gender and the Biological Sciences”, addressing the following questions:

  – What is the target of the argument?
  – What assumptions does the argument require?
  – If the argument is sound, what is one way science could be changed to reduce the chance of situations like those she describes?