

PHIL 102 FINAL PAPERS

The final paper is due **MONDAY December 19** at 11:59 PM. The paper **MUST** be submitted online via **Blackboard** (NO EXCEPTIONS). If there are any issues with submitting your paper, contact me by email well before the submission deadline. Papers must be at least **1500 words**, but must not exceed **1800 words** (papers that are either below the minimum word limit or exceed the word limit will be severely penalized). Papers must include a reference list using MLA, APA, or Chicago/Turabian formatting. When in doubt about font and size, 12 point font and Times New Roman are safe bets. **WHEN YOU CITE DIRECT QUOTES, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE AUTHOR, YEAR OF PUBLICATION, AND THE PAGE NUMBER OF THE CITATION.** Example: Anderson and Lepore claim that slurs are ‘distinct from their neutral counterparts’ (Anderson & Lepore 2013: 351).

1. In *What Mary Didn't Know*, Frank Jackson argued that epiphenomenal qualia is possible and that physicalism is false. Jackson no longer holds this view (as witnessed in the podcast), but does his view still have merit? If so, defend his view. If not, argue why physicalism is true by adding your own criticism to Jackson's argument.

2. Susanna Siegel is a proponent of cognitive penetration. Cognitive penetration claims that cognitive states, such as beliefs and desires, can influence perceptual states and our visual experience. According to Siegel, perceptual farce occurs when our visual experience fails to provide us with correct information due to influence from our beliefs. Use one of the examples given in class (or discuss an alternate example with me) to show that belief does OR does not influence our visual experience. If belief does influence our visual experience, in what ways are we responsible for those beliefs?

3. Angela Smith argues for blame as moral protest. On her account blame and moral protest are natural responses to wrongdoings. But what about excuses? In Gary Watson's article we saw that there are times when it seems inappropriate to blame once we are given information from the perspective of the perpetrator. Is an excuse sufficient to undermine blame? Are there any genuine instances when we no longer blame because an excuse was given? (For this paper, I advise picking one paradigm case and using it throughout the paper. Too many examples can make the paper sloppy).

4. In class I argued that if there is anything we want from a theory of slurs, it is to describe how slurs are distinct from their neutral counterparts. There are several options available for this topic. You could explore what makes a slur “bad” in this first place and argue how this “badness” is distinct from the group that the slur wants to pick out. You could also explore non-derogatory uses of the slurs to determine whether there are ways that we can reclaim slurs

(or at least whether ingroups can reclaim slurs). If you'd like to pursue another route, discuss with me first. In class, we censored slurs in order to respect our fellow classmates. For the paper you have complete license to write out the slurs (in respectful ways, of course). But examples like "bad snitch" are always welcome.