

Phil 432: Beginnings of Analytic Philosophy

Prompts for Paper 1

500 words max

Questions (choose *one* of these topics):

1. What is the problem of true non-existence claims? Is Russell's theory of descriptions a good solution?
2. Russell's theory of descriptions is sometimes used as an example of philosophical analysis. Suppose it does count as such. What can we say about what analysis is, and what it has to offer us?
3. Explain Moore's proof of the external world. Does it really prove what it purports to? If not, is there some other way in which it does useful philosophical work?

Instructions

- If you choose to answer one of the questions above, make sure you answer all parts of the question.
- The word limit is intentionally short. It is strict. Words over the limit will not be graded.
- If you would like to write on a different topic you may, but you should clear it with me *before you start writing the paper*.
- Whichever you choose to do, you should i) organise your paper around **arguing** for a thesis of your own and ii) demonstrate knowledge of the literature that we have studied (not *all* the literature we have studied, just some relevant part.) If you don't have much experience writing philosophy papers, you are strongly encouraged to read Jim Pryor's "How to write a philosophy paper" (easily found via google) before you start.
- **Please do not put your name on your paper.** Do put your PID number on your paper (I will be able to match this up with your name once I have finished grading.) This helps me to avoid inadvertent bias in my grading.
- Turn your paper in by emailing it to the address below.

Gillian Russell
gillian.russell@unc.edu