

Phil 432: Beginnings of Analytic Philosophy

Prompts for Paper 3

500 words max

Questions (choose *one* of these topics):

1. Explain one of Quine's arguments against the analytic/synthetic distinction in "Two Dogmas of Empiricism". Is the argument successful? Why (or why not)?
2. Do we ever have a priori knowledge or knowledge of necessary truths? Explain and evaluate the approach of Carnap, Ayer, or Quine (just one of the three) in giving your answer.
3. Identify and explain three differences between Wittgenstein's view of language in the *Tractatus Logico-philosophicus* and his view of language in the *Philosophical Investigations*. In your view, which view of language is better and why?
4. What is the Private Language argument? (In answering this part of the question, you should lay out a clear argument, and support your claim that this is the argument Wittgenstein intends to make using passages from the text.) Does it succeed in establishing its conclusion?

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 a .pdf file to the address below before midnight on the due date.

Gillian Russell
gillian_russell@unc.edu