Consciousness

ned.block@nyu.edu

Assignment 1: 3-5 pages
Due Tuesday, February 4th at 8 P.M. Submit on Classes or if you are having problems with classes, send it by email to Rebecca Keller or Qiany Qin.

Remember:
- Put your student number but not your name on your assignment.
  Assignments will be graded anonymously
- You must do one of the first 3 assignments.
- No late papers.
- Use your own words—no quotations or paraphrases

Answer all of the questions briefly in order. Of course, your responses will have to be very brief in order to answer 8 questions in 3-5 pages. Think of your responses as showing someone who already knows the answers that you know the answers too.

1. Give an example (that is not from the readings or the lectures) of two different concepts that pick out the same thing.
2. Some say that Nagel is proposing to substitute a dualism of concepts for a dualism of properties. What does that mean?
3. What is the point of Nagel’s caterpillar analogy
4. What is the point of the analogy to how difficult it would be for a pre-Socratic philosopher to understand the claim that matter is energy?
5. Is Nagel arguing that mind-body identity (physicalism) is false?
6. Nagel is skeptical about whether standard models of reduction of the sort that explain the reduction of heat to molecular kinetic energy or water to H₂O applies to consciousness. Why?
7. Does Nagel say we cannot know what it is like to be a bat?
8. Does Nagel think there is a principled problem about explaining consciousness in scientific terms?