March 27, 2002

CENTRAL PROBLEMS IN PHILOSOPHY

THIRD PAPER

Jackson claims:

(1) When Mary is let out of the black-and-white room and shown a tomato for the first time, she will learn a fact about the experience of seeing red that she did not know before – even though she already knew all the physical, neurological, and behavioral facts about color vision.

(2) Therefore, the physical facts are not all the facts, and physicalism is false.

Does this argument refute physicalism?

In your answer, explain what physicalism is, how Jackson’s argument against it is supposed to work, and why the argument is or is not successful.

Write a four-page, double-spaced paper on this topic. Make sure you understand the assignment before you start writing, and make sure to answer the specific questions asked. The paper should give your own views and the reasons for them. You should have as few quotations in the paper as possible – and anything quoted or derived from another writer should be fully cited to its original place of publication.

The paper is due in class on Monday, April 8. Please write only your ID number on the paper, to permit blind grading. Late papers should be put in Professor Nagel’s mailbox at the philosophy department, 503 Main, and the time of receipt should if possible be entered by someone on the office staff.