

## IPFA09 - Paper 2

The four options for the first paper are listed below; write on one. Papers should be **1500-1800 words long**. Please review the requirements, guidelines, and grading criteria for papers in §§5 and 6 of the ‘General information and policies’ handout, as well as those found in ‘The giant philosophy paper packet’.

You should not consult or work with anyone besides me on the content of the paper, nor with few exceptions should you consult any sources other than the assigned readings or lecture notes. You may (indeed, I encourage you to) have someone else read your paper to check for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanical problems. **Please don’t hesitate to check with me if you have any questions!**

- (1) One serious problem we found with Charles Taylor’s paper ‘Atomism’ was the lack of a list of valuable human capacities. Suppose Taylor turned to some of the philosophers we read during the first few weeks of class, when we discussed different conceptions of the good life, for help. Pick two of these philosophers, briefly identify those things that each would consider the most valuable human capacities, and briefly explain where these lists overlap and where they disagree. Does this approach produce a good list of valuable human capacities that can fill in the gap in Taylor’s argument? Why or why not?
- (2) Wesley Salmon argues against Popper’s falsificationism with an argument that has the following first premise: Either science uses induction or it cannot be used to make predictions. In lecture, we examined some ways Popper might try to argue against this premise, but we did not examine Salmon’s reasons why we should believe it. Why does Salmon think we need induction to make predictions? Can Popper successfully respond to Salmon by challenging his reasons for the first premise?
- (3) David Hume criticizes the idea of causal powers by arguing against the idea of necessary connection. Nancy Cartwright, on the other hand, argues that our scientific theories only make sense if they have to do with causal powers, and not just constant conjunction. Does the idea of causal powers, as Cartwright understands it, include the idea of necessary connection? If yes, then can Cartwright respond to Hume’s argument? If no, then can Hume’s argument be modified to give a criticism of Cartwright’s idea of causal powers?
- (4) Pick one of the other debates or controversies that has come up in class or in the reading. Develop this debate. You will need to clearly state the positions on both sides, give at least one good argument for one side, and give at least one good response to this argument from the other side. **If you take this option, you must meet with me as soon as possible, so that I can make sure you’re taking on a reasonable paper topic. I will not accept your paper if you don’t do this!**

**Papers are due Tuesday, November 24.**