

Phil 307 : Metaphysics and Epistemology

5-Page Essay Questions

1. What is Descartes' skeptical argument? What does he use it for? Ought we to accept its conclusion?
2. What is Bouwsma's thesis about the meaning of the word "illusion"? How does he respond to Descartes' skeptical argument? Ought we to be satisfied with this response?
3. Does common sense allow us to refute skepticism?
4. How does Russell think the notion of simplicity can play a role in the justification of the theory that there are physical objects? Is he right? What is the role of simplicity in theory choice in general?

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*.

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