

Phil 306 : Philosophy of Language

5–6 Page Essay Questions

Preliminaries

- Please bind the pages of your paper with a single paper clip, rather than a staple. (This makes photocopying the papers much easier.)
- If you choose to answer one of the questions below, make sure you answer all parts of the question.
- 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 (just as you did on the 1-page papers) and ii) demonstrate knowledge of the literature that we have studied.
- There should be no significant overlap between the topic of this paper, and the topics of any of your other papers from this course.

Questions

1. Are proper names just disguised definite descriptions?
2. What does Putnam's Twin Earth thought experiment tell us about meanings?
3. What is the verificationist theory of meaning? Explain and evaluate two criticisms of the theory.
4. Is there a distinction between analytic and synthetic sentences?

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