Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 2021

First Writing Assignment

Due: July 17th

Important: *- Please use numbers to indicate which question you are answering and use a blank space between the answers.*

*- For full credit, you shouldn’t use Webster, Google or Wikipedia as your primary source of information; use instead your course materials*.

**Short warm-up questions**

1. State the memory criterion of personal identity. [0.5 points]

2. Give an example of a valid argument with all false premises and a true conclusion. [1 point]

3. Give an example of two qualitatively identical entities which are not numerically identical. [0.5 points]

4. Give an example of numerical (that is, quantitative) identity. [0.5 points]

5. Define substance dualism. [0.5 point]

6. Define epiphenomenalism. [0.5 point]

7. Name one philosopher who defends substance dualism. [0.5 point]

8. State Jackson’s Knowledge argument (premises and conclusion). [1 point]

**Mini-essay**

9**.** Read the following **Teletransporter Choice** scenario (the first part of the “Staying Alive” game) and respond to the questions below. Length: 500 words, typed. [5 points]

You have been chosen to go on a very important mission to Mars. You have no choice in this matter, you must go. But you can choose your means of transport. One method is teletransportation. You will step into a scanner here on earth which will destroy your brain and body, while recording the *exact states* of all your cells. This information will then be transmitted to a replicator on Mars. Travelling at the speed of light, the message will take three minutes to reach its destination. The replicator will create, *out of new matter*, a brain and body exactly like yours. The person on Mars will look like you, think like you, in fact be indistinguishable from you. He or she will certainly feel as though they have merely fallen asleep on Earth and then woken up on Mars. This method is 100 per cent reliable. The other choice is to go by spaceship. This is very risky and there is 50 per cent chance that the ship will not complete the journey and you will die in transit. But if you do successfully take the spaceship, then your body and brain won't at any stage have been destroyed. You must make the choice which you think will give yourself the biggest chance of surviving.

Which option would you choose: the teletransporter or the spaceship? Explain why. Your explanation should include a discussion of **the criterion of personal identity** (one of the four) you are using to defend your choice. Why do you prefer that specific criterion? Why is your choice better than the alternative option?

**Academic Honesty**

**PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated. **This is a very serious issue.** Remember that if you are not explicitly required to use external sources, you don’t have to use them. However, if you decide to use them, QUOTE THE SOURCES PROPERLY and add the references at the end of the paper. Here is how plagiarism is defined in the syllabus:

**Plagiarism**: Portrayal of another’s work or ideas as one’s own. Examples include unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.