

Sandy Berkovski

History and Philosophy of Science

Selected essay questions

Hume and Goodman on Induction

I. [up to 1000 words]

Either:

Is Goodman's 'new riddle of induction' a strengthened version of Hume's problem of induction, or an altogether different puzzle? Explain.

or:

Does the notion of entrenchment help to solve Goodman's 'new riddle of induction'? Explain.

II. [no more than 250-300 words]

Does Hume's problem of induction fit Descartes' overthrow of belief in *Meditations*? Why?

Readings

Hume, *Enquiry*, sects. IV-V.

Goodman, *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*, chs. 1-3.

Papers from *Grue!* (ed. Stalker), 1994 (reserved on 10 Merton St):

Scheffler, 'Inductive Inference' (a useful review of Goodman)

Ullian, 'Luck, License, and Lingo'

Hacking, 'Entrenchment', sects. 6-19

Further readings

Hume, *Treatise*, Book I, part III, sects. 1-4, 7-8, 14

Stroud, *Hume*, chs. 3-4

Goodman, *FFF*, ch. 4

From *Grue!*:

Quine, 'Natural Kinds'

Suppes, 'Learning and Projectibility', sects. 1-3

Kant

I. [up to 600 words]

Either:

Were there space and time at the age of dinosaurs, according to Kant?

or:

What is a thing-in-itself?

II. [250-300 words]

How can a *transcendental argument* help to cope with Hume's problem of induction?

Readings

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (Lucas' translation is recommended), §§6-13, 32-35, and the section after §60, called 'Solution to the General Question of *Prolegomena*'

Walker, RSC, *Kant*, II-1, III, IV-1,2 (a well-known commentary; required for question II)

Melnick, Arthur, *Kant's Analogies of Experience*, sects. 1, 19-21 and pp. 162-4 (my preferred choice)

Further readings

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, 'Preface to the Second Edition', 'Introduction' (reliable translations: by Kemp Smith, Pluhar, or Guyer/Wood)

Poincaré, *Science and Hypothesis*, ch. 4, *Science and Method*, Book II, ch. I, sects. I-III

Kuhn

I. [up to **600** words]

Either:

'There can be no communication between the adherents of different paradigms, according to Kuhn'. Discuss.

or:

How and why can the historical research refute philosophical theses, according to Kuhn? Discuss one or two *detailed* examples.

or:

*State one thesis of Feyerabend, rejected by Kuhn, and one thesis of Kuhn, rejected by

Feyerabend.

II. [250-300 words]

Describe Kuhn's account of the interaction between observation and theory.

Readings

Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, chs. II-III, V-IX.

Hanson, *Patterns of Discovery*, ch. 1.

Further readings

the rest of Kuhn's book

Feyerabend, in: *Readings in the Philosophy of Science* (eds. Brody and Grandy)