

Essay #1

Explain briefly how **Bayesian Objectivism** approaches the question of how we know about the physical world – i.e. what do you think is the main point Franklin is making? Then summarize Franklin's critique of Karl Popper's ideas. Give your own opinion.

Some hints

- Inductive reasoning versus deduction
- Statistical syllogism and level of confidence
- A purely logical connection between evidence and theory
- Statistical nature of modern science
- What does "falsifiable" mean?
- When a theory passes a test, does one have more confidence in it?

Four or five pages should do the job, using the font and line spacing of this note. But you can use any font or spacing you want. Write in real sentences, don't use bulleted lists. Use your own words; no cut and paste. This essay will count for 15% of the grade. Content and clarity of presentation will count for 10%. Style, i.e. use of correct syntax and grammar, and well-constructed sentences, will count for 3%. Originality will count for 2%. It's best to use some kind of word-processor software, rather than hand-written. **Keep a copy of it – in case the copy you hand in gets lost.**

Due Date This essay is due back on 5th February

Reading

You should have read Chapter 1 to 5 of Franklin's book by the end of the month. In Feynman's book, you should have read Lectures 1 and 2 by the end of the month.

Office Hours

I'm in my office on Thursday afternoons, and most of Friday. Send me an email if you want to meet. Other times are possible, but Thursdays and Fridays are guaranteed (sort of).