

PHIL 420 short paper #4

Fall 2009

For short paper #4, choose one of the following two choices of topics:

1. Choose something that is not true with respect to you, but is nevertheless possible. State that possibility as a modal claim of the form *It is possible that P*. Analyze that claim using one of the theories of modality discussed in class and in the reading (i.e., some kind of possibilist or actualist view). What is the most difficult criticism for the view you favor to overcome (and state it briefly), and what is the best way for your view to meet that criticism?
2. The opening paragraph of David Lewis' "Possible Worlds" contains an argument. (1) Put that argument into a list of numbered premises, together with Lewis' conclusion. Clarify that argument as necessary. The argument's form should be valid. (2) Give a criticism of that piece of reasoning.

Given that I didn't have these topics ready for you last Thursday, the due date is now pushed to the following: Paper #4 is due on Blackboard by noon on Sunday, October 25.