

**Paper. Due Thurs 11/30.**

- (a) Choose one of the following topics and respond to it in an essay of no less than 5 pages and no more than 7 pages (not including title page and bibliography). Your paper should be typed, 10- or 12-point, double-spaced and spell-checked. Please submit your paper to the link in the Brightspace Assignments folder.
- (b) Your essay should conform to the Paper Guidelines available in the Paper folder in the Contents section of Brightspace. Make Absolutely Certain that you have read and understood these guidelines before you attempt to begin writing your essay. If you do not follow these guidelines, the grade for your essay may suffer!
- (c) All papers must include a bibliography with at least 2 entries (at least one of these should be from the list of required class readings). Your essay must use this bibliography as a source to cite for all claims and quotes you attribute to authors. If you do not include a bibliography that you cite for claims and quotes, the grade for your essay may suffer! Lecture notes should NOT be listed or referred to in your essay. Lecture notes merely summarize topics in the texts and related material. Similarly, online lecture notes from other sources should not be listed or referred to. Be extremely careful of other types of online sources that have not been vetted by me. If you are in doubt as to the reliability of an online source please check with me before using it.
- (d) Please make use of Tandon's Writing Center if you have trouble with spelling or grammar. If your essay contains so many spelling/grammatical errors that a reader cannot understand what your claims are, then your grade may suffer. Information about Tandon's Writing Center can be found at <http://engineering.nyu.edu/academics/support/polytechnic/writing>.
- (e) Late paper policy: There are no extensions on the due date. Late papers will be accepted but will be given an initial penalty of a third of a grade point, and a further penalty of a third of a grade point for every period of 7 days after the due date. *Example*: An A paper turned in 1-7 days late will receive an A-. An A paper turned in 8-14 days late will receive a B+. An A paper turned in 15-21 days late will receive a B, etc. *Under no circumstances will late papers be accepted after the date of the final.*

1. Why is it important to give an account of the relation between theory and evidence? What are some of the problems that logical empiricist accounts of this relation faced?
2. Compare and contrast Kuhn's account of science and scientific change with the account given by the logical positivists and with the account given by Popper. Of these three, which do you find the most adequate?
3. How could you argue for greater participation of women and minorities in science and engineering from the point of view of philosophical feminist empiricism? How would such an argument be different from the point of view of radical feminist epistemology? Do you think either of these positions is justified?
4. Explain how a Kantian metaphysics might be adopted by the Strong Program in the sociology of scientific knowledge to account for its claim that scientific facts are social constructs. How might this view be different from a Kantian version of Kuhn's views on paradigms and how they relate to the world? How might a Kantian metaphysics be different from the type of metaphysics implied by Actor-Network Theory?