

Paper #1. Due Thurs Oct 5th.

Instructions:

- (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. Your essay should be typed, 10- or 12-point, double-spaced and spell-checked. Please submit a hardcopy of your paper in class on the due date, as well as an e-copy to Turnitin.
- (b) Your essay should conform to the guidelines for writing philosophy essays handed out in class. ***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 will suffer!
- (c) Your essay must include a bibliography that minimally includes the relevant course texts. 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 will suffer!
- (d) Please make use of Poly's Writing Center if you have trouble with spelling and/or grammar. If your essay contains so many spelling/grammatical errors that a reader cannot comprehend what your claims are, then your grade will suffer as a result. Information about Poly's Writing Center can be found at <http://www.poly.edu/academics/support/polytechnic/writing>.

1. Compare the roles that empiricism, mathematics, and social structure play in making science distinct from other ways of investigating the world. Is it fair to emphasize any one of these characteristics above the others?
2. Popper's view of science is very popular among contemporary scientists. Why do you think this is? Give an account of Popper's view and the problems it faces in describing the relation between theory and evidence, and in how it accounts for scientific change.
3. 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?