

24.119 Minds and Machines

Problem Set 4. Assigned in class #6. Due in class #7.

NB: *no* quotations, *no* paraphrases; answer in your own words.

- (1) What feature of mental states is Armstrong's example of the homing rocket supposed to illustrate?
 - (2) Why, according to Armstrong, are "the qualities of color, sound, heat and cold...an embarrassment to the modern Materialist"? (One short paragraph.)
 - (3) Why does Putnam think functionalism is compatible with dualism? (One short paragraph.)
 - (4) Describe an objection to behaviorism (it could be one that was mentioned in class) that functionalism is supposed to address. Does it succeed in doing so?
 - (5) Explain Putnam's objections to the identity theory (the "brain-state hypothesis") (pp. 76-7). Briefly assess the objections.
 - (6) A Cartesian objection to the identity theory is that one can clearly and distinctly imagine being in pain but not being in a brain state. Could a Cartesian object in a similar way to functionalism? Explain your answer.
 - (7) What is the connection between Block's homunculi-headed robots (p. 96) and Putnam's condition (3) (p. 76)?
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