

## **PHL 311 First problem**

The first problem essay is due January 31, 2006.

The problem essays will require a bit of collaborative work. You may work in groups of 3 or 4 for this problem. The focus of the collaborative work is to construct the problem. This will be a communal effort of your team. You will each construct a response to the problem as an individual effort.

I will provide the question and your team will convert it into a problem. The difference between the two is that the problem statement you will generate will have the following form:

Given the assumptions A and the definitions D, the question Q.

For the first effort the question is:

How is science demarcated from non-science?

Thus you will need to generate the problem statement:

Given the assumptions A and the definitions D, how is science demarcated from non-science?

You will need to discuss and establish the assumptions and definitions collectively. Your response to the problem shall be your own work. You shall submit the problem report as a single document. The document should have a common introduction that represents the assumptions and definitions followed by the individual responses. Your individual responses should be no more than three pages. Make sure that you clearly identify the team members, the common material, and the individual contributions. Assemble these into one document and submit the single document.

You can have your discussions in any way that you consider appropriate. You may meet together as a group, use email, use a phone, use a combination of these, or, if you are able, telepathy. The real point is to engage the material as part of a group and come to some common understandings. This is a difficult intellectual task. It will require intellectual respect, patience, and compromise. Remember that you will also have the opportunity to formulate your individual opinion.

I will establish a network accessible discussion board by Tuesday January 24, 2006. I will try to have this ready by tomorrow, however. I will notify the class by campus email. Please check your official UAH email for further detail. When the discussion board is available it will be linked to the class web site at <http://wwwdev.uah.edu/dmr/phl311/>