

Writing Assignment 1: Philosophy of Mind

First, read “Epiphenomenal Qualia” by Frank Jackson. Then I want you to do the following. Write me a one page, double-spaced response paper (about 250 words). You can write more, but not more than 400 words. Pick one of the objections to epiphenomenalism in Section IV “The Bogey of Epiphenomenalism” (the objections are conveniently labeled (i), (ii), and (iii)). Describe the objection. Your description does not have to be long, but it should be clear and it should be in your own words. You should make it clear how it is an objection to epiphenomenalism. Then I would like you to say what you think about the objection. Is it a good one? A bad one? Why or why not? You can discuss Jackson’s response to the objection you pick, but make sure to tell me what you think and why you think it. At the end, please tell me whether you think epiphenomenalism is true, physicalism is true, or some other view of mental states is true (or tell me that you don’t know!).