

Essay #1
Paradoxes

Write a “reaction” essay on one of the three paradoxes we discussed during the first three weeks of class:

- The Surprise Exam Paradox
- The Paradox of the Ravens
- Hume’s Problem of Induction

Your essay should be 2-3 pages double-spaced, or about 500-750 words. It should have a title and your name on it. Please print it out, staple it, and bring it to class. The essay is due on 3 March 2017. Late papers will lose one grade step (for example, from an A+ to an A or from a B to a B-) for *each day* late.

What do I mean by a “reaction” essay? This is an unusual essay for a philosophy class: it does not need a thesis. There is no one main claim you are arguing for. It is an essay wherein you demonstrate to me that you have done some reading, that you understand the paradox in question, and that you have thought about it (*not* that you have solved it). You can demonstrate these things for example by:

- Summarizing the paradox in your own words. Being especially clear will help you here.
- Mentioning things we discussed in class that you don’t understand and explaining why you don’t understand them.
- Mentioning things from the reading that you agreed with/ disagreed with/ found interesting, or things that you did not understand and explaining why you did not understand them.
- Discussing some or all of the solutions we discussed in class.
- Expressing your opinion about the paradox. Is it interesting? Do you think there’s a solution? Do you think it’s important that we solve it?

You do not need to do all of those things (the first one is pretty necessary though). Do *some* of them, and convince me that you have understood and thought about the paradox.