Paper Topics 2: Due Thursday May 12th Howison Library at 5 pm.

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Length: 8 pages (2250 words) This is the LIMIT. Do not exceed this limit.

1. How would Merleau-Ponty respond to the question, “How do you know you are not a brain in a vat?” Is MP’s answer convincing? (In answering this question discuss MP’s notions of the subject, the world, the real, and the subject’s relation to the world).

2. How are perceptual illusions possible according to MP? How does MP’s account contrast with the Cartesian understanding of perception and illusion? What objections does MP raise against the Cartesian view? What objections could you or a Cartesian raise against MP?

3. What are the empiricist’s and intellectualist’s accounts of hallucination? What are MP’s objections to these accounts? What is MP’s own understanding of hallucination? Do you agree with MP’s views? Why or why not?

4. What is the problem of other selves and what is MP’s solution to this problem? Do you agree with MP’s solution? Why or why not?

5. Zombies are characterized as beings that have no conscious experience but are capable of acting with apparent purpose. How does Merleau-Ponty’s account of motor intentionality avoid the zombie charge, if it does?

6. An objection to Merleau-Ponty’s claim that there is a pre-personal, pre-theoretical grounding of spatial orientation is that our bodies determine spatial orientation (up-down) because of the position of our visual apparatus. How would MP answer this objection?

You may choose your own paper topic if your GSI approves it ahead of time. Do not wait until the last minute to make up your own topic.