ASSIGNMENT II

Critical Note

Due: Wednesday 21st March, in class

In the third lecture of Naming and Necessity, Kripke argues that his account of the semantics of singular and natural kind terms shows the falsity of the identity theory of mental states.

The task for this assignment is to outline Kripke's argument, and to critically assess it. As before, you have around three pages (up to 1200 words). But this time the focus of your discussion should be on the criticism. If you can, take it one stage further: consider how Kripke might respond to your initial criticism, and how you might counter that.

You may concentrate on either the token-token identity theory, or the type-type identity theory; you do not need to discuss both.

If you want to read some secondary literature on this, you could have a look at section II (pp. 672–76) of Fred Feldman’s paper ‘Kripke on the Identity Theory’ Journal of Philosophy Vol. 71; and Bill Lycan’s paper ‘Kripke and the Materialists’ also in the Journal of Philosophy Vol. 71 (both are available on JSTOR).