

Short Writing Assignment #4

The assignment should be 1-2 pages, typed and double spaced and emailed before class to the teacher's assistant on the date listed below.

Remember that late assignments will incur a penalty of one third of a letter grade per day!

Due Monday 10 March: Sensitivity and Safety

1. What are the conditions under which a counterfactual conditional is true?
2. Give an intuitive example of a true counterfactual conditional in English and explain why it satisfies the truth-conditions given in your answer to Q1.
3. Give an intuitive example of a false counterfactual conditional in English and explain why it does not satisfy the truth-conditions given in your answer to Q1.
4. What is the sensitivity condition for knowledge? Does my belief that I am not a brain in a vat satisfy the sensitivity condition for knowledge? If so, why? And if not, why not?
5. What is the safety condition for knowledge? Does my belief that I am not a brain in a vat satisfy the safety condition for knowledge? If so, why? And if not, why not?

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