Essay 2: PHIL 2120 Topics in Analytic Philosophy

Due: 5pm Tuesday 8 January
Email: danm@hku.hk
Length: 2000 words

Format: Make sure you write your name and student number in the email title and on your essay. Also use double spaces and standard 1 inch size margins

Q1) Describe and evaluate Russell's theory of logical atomism

Relevant readings: i) Soames, Ch 8; ii) Russell, *Logical Atomism*, iii) Klement, Kevin, "Russell's Logical Atomism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Q2) Describe and evaluate Wittgenstein's theory of logical atomism

Relevant readings: i) Soames, Ch 9-12; ii) Wittgenstein, *Tractatus*, iii) Fogelin, *Wittgenstein*, iv) Proops, Ian, "Wittgenstein's Logical Atomism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Q3) What is the nature of possibility? Describe and evaluate at least one of the following theories: i) the combinatorial theory of possibility, ii) the conventionalist theory of possibiltiy

Relevant readings: i) Soames, Ch 11-12; ii) Theodore Sider, 'Reductive Theories of Modality' Sections 1-2,4 http://tedsider.org/papers/reductive_theories_of_modality.pdf ; iii) Theodore Sider, 'Another Look at Armstrong's Combinatorialism' http://tedsider.org/papers/armstrong.pdf; iv) Bryan Skyrms 'Tractarian Nominalism'; v) David Armstrong, *A Combinatorial Theory of Possibility*

Q4) Describe and evaluate the verificationist theory of meaning?

Suggested readings: i) Soames, Ch 13; ii) Godfrey Smith, *Theory and Reality* Ch 2; iii) Carl Hempel, `The Empiricist Criterion of Meaning'; iv) Creath, Richard, "Logical Empiricism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*; v) A.J. Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic*