Essay: PHIL 2520 Philosophy of Logic

Due: 5pm Tuesday 8 January 2013
Submit by email to: danm@hku.hk
Length: 1000-1500 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) What is the distinction between a logical expression and a non-logical expression?

Relevant readings: John MacFarlane 'Logical Constants', http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logical-constants/

Q2) Describe and evaluate one or more of the following accounts of indicative conditionals: the hook analysis, the strict conditional analysis, and the ceteris paribus analysis

Relevant readings: i) Bennett, Ch 3+4; ii) Stalnaker 'A theory of Conditionals'; and iii) Edgington, 'Conditionals http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/conditionals/'

Q3) Describe and evaluate one or more theories of possible worlds

Relevant readings: i) Sider, 'Reductive theories of modality' Sections 1-3 http://tedsider.org/papers/reductive_theories_of_modality.pdf; ii) Melia, 'Ersatz possible worlds'

Q4) Pick one or more normal modal logic and discuss whether it provides a correct logic for one or more of the following languages: modal language M, epistemic language E, temporal language T, obligation language O, or nomic language N.

Suggested readings: i) McNamara 'Deontic Logic' http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-deontic/; ii) Hendricks and Symons 'Epistemic Logic'; iii) Galton 'Temporal Logic' http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-temporal/

Q5) Does classical logic need to be modified to allow for truth value gaps and/or gluts? If so, how should it be modified?

Suggested reading: See further reading listed by Priest p. 140