

Philosophy 2330: Science
Fall 2021
Second short essay assignment

Please complete your essay and upload it into Blackboard before class on Tuesday, Sept 28th. Your essay should be submitted anonymously so please do **NOT** put your name or any other identifying features on your essay.

You are to write an argumentative essay that should in part, involve a discussion of methodological naturalism. The essay should be between one and two pages (500-700 words) in length. Many of our authors discuss methodological naturalism (Clark, Galileo, Halvorson, Plantinga). Your essay should involve some discussion and evaluation of the views of one (or more) of these authors. It is not necessary to discuss all of them.

There are a number of possible topics that you might discuss. Here are a few possibilities:

- 1) How should we define methodological naturalism? What types of entities or explanations should be allowed in science and what kind are to be excluded?
- 2) Is methodological naturalism a good idea? Why or why not?
- 3) Should a religious believer be a methodological naturalist? Why or why not?
- 4) How does methodological naturalism interact with claims about miracles? Should science proceed under the assumption that miracles are impossible? Is it then impossible to have scientific evidence for a miracle?
- 5) Does the success of modern science and methodological naturalism provide an argument for metaphysical naturalism? Why or why not?
- 6) How does methodological naturalism relate to the more general discussion of the relationship between science and religion?
- 7) What is the right way to understand the Doctrine of the Two Books? Does it go along with methodological naturalism? Or are these two independent theses?
- 8) How does methodological naturalism interact with questions of interpretation of religious doctrines (such as in the Bible)?

You can write on any of these topics, combine multiple topics, or address a topic not on the list (though it must be relevant to the course obviously).