

1st Assignment: Descartes' Dualism

Carefully explain Descartes' argument for the claim that his mind is distinct from his brain, his nervous system, and everything else he perceives (or infers) to exist in space. Make sure to use passages from the text to defend your interpretation of Descartes' argument. How might Smart use Frege's views to argue against the validity of Descartes' argument for mind/body dualism? (Make sure to explain Frege's view of 'doubt', 'belief', etc. in detail by explaining the way words are supposed to shift their denotations when they are used within psychological contexts.) How might Descartes respond to Smart's objections to his argument? Can a dualist reply to Smart's objections in an effective way? Back up your answers with arguments.

4-5 pages, normal formatting (e.g. Times 12 pt double spaced)

Assigned: 1/4/21

Due: 1/28/21