

Philosophy 3330 Spring 2021  
Reading questions #1  
Due Tue, Jan 26

Read the introduction and Chapter 1 of Ladyman's *Understanding Philosophy of Science*. Then answer the following questions:

1) Early in her dialogue with Thomas, Alice says that the difference between science and religious dogma and myth is that "scientists develop and test their beliefs according to proper methods." What methods does she have in mind here? (hint – look later in the chapter). Do you think that she is right that this is more or less how science develops and that this is different than religious beliefs?

2) Late in the dialog, Thomas says that "observation without any bias whatsoever isn't possible." Explain what he means by this (hint: look at the context of his claim). Give some examples of (good) science that heavily involve observation. How would Thomas explain that these are biased? Do you agree with him? If they aren't biased methods, explain why not. If they are, explain why you think this still counts as good science.

3) After reading the chapter, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed further. This could be something that the chapter forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapter.