

Philosophy 3330 Spring 2021  
Reading questions #2  
Due Tue, Feb 2

Read Chapter 2 of Ladyman's *Understanding Philosophy of Science*. Then answer the following questions. Your answers should be uploaded in Blackboard.

1) The problem of induction is to explain how inductive inferences can be justified. So why does Hume spend so much time talking about cause and effect? What does he think causation has to do with induction?

2) Here is something that looks sort of like an inductive inference: Alice drops a rock into a pool and it sinks to the bottom. She retrieves it and then says, "If I dropped it again, it would sink again." Thomas says, "How do you know?" She replies, "I wasn't sure if it would sink or not the first time, but now that I see it sinks, I know it will always sink. The laws of nature having to do with buoyancy, density, mass, water, and I don't even know what else guarantee that it will always be the same." --- Do you think Alice's inference here is justified? Can the laws of nature be used in a similar way to "solve" the problem of induction? How would Hume (or Thomas) respond?

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.