

Philosophy 3330 Spring 2021  
Reading questions #7  
Due Tue, March 9

Read Chapter 5 of James Ladyman's *Understanding Philosophy of Science* and then answer the following questions. Your answers should be uploaded in Blackboard.

1) Direct realism says that when you look at a table, you directly perceive the table. How could this be wrong? But idealism disagrees. What does idealism say that we perceive instead? Why would anyone think that? What are some reasons to worry about direct realism?

2) The logical positivists believed in the verifiability criterion of meaning – the idea that a statement is meaningful (and so is either true or false) only if it is either analytic or empirically verifiable. What about the following three statements – do you think they are meaningful (true or false)? Are they verifiable? How?

- a) There are 100 billion stars in the milky way galaxy
- b) The universe will keep expanding forever
- c) The Mona Lisa is beautiful
- d) God is love

3) After reading the chapter, try to 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.