**Phil 8: Introduction to Philosophy of Science**

Paper #3

Due Wednesday, May 25th

Content:

Recently we encountered Thomas Kuhn’s views about the process of normal science and the paradigmatic theories that are essential for it:

1. Kuhn argues that most scientists spend most of their careers participating in “normal science”. Explain three activities that scientists engage in during the process of normal science. In so doing, you might find it helpful to discuss the difference between the main hypotheses of a theory and auxiliary hypotheses.
2. Kuhn argues that “paradigms” are essential for normal science by presenting normal science as a kind of puzzle solving. What is a paradigm? If normal science is a puzzle-solving activity, what two features are essential for it? Explain. How does the paradigm provide these two features?
3. Ancient scientific works tend to be long, self-contained works that are accessible to the general educated public, but contemporary scientific work tends to be in the form of short articles that are impenetrable to non-specialists. How would Kuhn explain this fact in terms of paradigms?

Form:

You are to write a *single*, *unified* essay that conducts the reader through these ideas. (In other words, you are *not* to treat “A”, “B”, and “C” above as independent questions to be answered with separate paragraphs lettered “A”, “B”, and “C”.)

Your essay *must* *not* be longer than **two pages double-spaced** (*not even by a single word*), be written in **12 point Times New Roman font**, and have **1 inch margins**.

The point of the assignment is to demonstrate that you understand the material. Therefore, it is crucial that you put the material *in your own words*. While you may certainly *consult* the outlines and assigned readings, you may not quote from or closely paraphrase these or any other sources. Your words must be your own. Also, I do not recommend consulting any materials other than those provided in class. You may work together with your fellow classmates to improve your understanding of the material, though you may not work together during the actual writing process.

You will turn in your papers through TurnItIn. If you have never used this feature before, you can access TurnItIn through MyUCLA. You will submit your paper under the assignment heading that matches the discussion section that you attend. For example, if you attend section 1E, you will submit your paper under the heading: Section 1E-Paper #1.

Remember, our late paper policy is as follows:

Late papers will be accepted, but you will lose 10% of your paper grade for every 24-hour period that the paper is late. (For example, if the paper is due Monday and you fail to hand it in, you have until 12:00 PM on Tuesday to turn it in for a loss of only 10% of your paper grade, until 11:00 AM on Wednesday for a loss of only 20%, and so on.) In very special circumstances, paper extensions will be granted, but you *must* notify your TA about your situation *before* the paper is due, as soon as it is practical to do so.