Austin Gray

Philosophy 303

Assignment 11

Dr. Glymour

To expand on his argument agains the infallibist view of knowledge, Descarte presents the”Evil Demon Argument”. In this argument Descarte presuposes that a powerful evil demon capable of manipulating people is possible. He continues statating that an evil demon would also be consistent with the presentation of all experiences. This would mean that the evil demon would be capable of preseniting false information to people in a way they would not be able to distinguish as such. Because of this Descartes concludes that you cannot know (in the infallibist manner) anything about the external physical world, not even that it exists. This conclusion is commonly refered to as Cartesian Skepticism.