Austin Gray

Philosophy 303

Assignment 12

Dr. Glymour

To further expand on his argument against the traditional infallibility view of knowledge, Descartes presents the “Evil Demon Argument”. In this argument Descartes presents the concept of an ultimately powerful evil demon. This demon is capable of presenting people with any information he would like whether true or not. As an example he could present to people that the clouds are made of cotton candy, he could give them evidence of this. Further the demon is always consistent when presenting information, that being that if someone measures or observes the same thing multiple times it will always have the same result. To continue the example of the cotton candy, if someone were to go take samples of the clouds they would always support that idea. There would be no way for the people to know that they are being presented “false” information.