

## **Assignment for Personal Reflection Paper II – Due Friday, November 5**

At this point in the course you have completed the major sections on the mind and the brain. You have read quite a bit about the multiple perspectives represented by these two different epistemological stances. It is therefore time to make a formal return to your own beliefs about how you know who you are.

The assignment for this paper is nearly identical to that of the first Personal Reflection Paper: from your own personal perspective I want you to address the epistemological question: *How do I know who I am (scientific ways, personal and subjective ways, other ways?)*? But there is something different now than when you sat down to write the first paper – since then you have been immersed in some of the academic literature and debates that have tackled this question. So, for this paper, you will need to reflect on how your own assumptions, beliefs, preconceived notions, and biases have been affected by the course readings and discussions up to this point.

Before writing this paper I would like you to re-read your first Personal Reflection Paper, which you turned in on September 10<sup>th</sup>, after just one week in this course. Then, you will need to think back over the readings and discussions we have had in the course thus far and identify those that have had the biggest impact on the way you currently think about the question of identity and decide if these apply to your own identity. Also, please take into account the comments I made on your first paper – you will need to address some of my questions and concerns.

*The paper you turn in should describe your current personal epistemology when it comes to your identity and also how that approach has changed since your first Personal Reflection Paper (in light of the course readings and discussions).*

### **The Details:**

- **Length:** 2-3 pages
- **Format:** 12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins on each side, pages numbered, stapled, make sure to include your name on each page. You may want to refer to certain course readings or to specific comments made in discussion by your classmates. You do *not* need to include a formal reference list. Instead you may use parenthetical citations in the text of your paper. For example: (McAdams, 1995) or (Jon's comment in class on 10/9/09). Please e-mail your paper to Jon.
- **Grading:** This paper will be graded with a check/check-plus/check-minus system. Spelling, grammar, and sentence-structure are important, but I will primarily focus on your ideas. Check-plusses will be given only when I see evidence of deep personal epistemological analysis.