

Reading Questions for September 7

These questions cover an essay by Robert Kane called “Incompatibilism.” We are only reading up to the start of section 3 (page 289); we’ll look at some further sections on Wednesday. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In Kane’s article as a whole, he does two things. First he spends some time explaining the current state of the free will debate. Next he spends some time defending his view of it. For today’s class, we are looking at part of the time he spends on the first thing – explaining the current state of the debate.

*Questions:*

1. In section 1 (pages 285-6), Kane introduces the terms “determinism” and “compatibilism.” What does he mean by these terms? How are they connected to the debate about free will?
2. In section 2 (pages 286-9), Kane introduces the consequence argument. What is this argument? How has the argument been criticized? What do you think about the consequence argument; do you think it’s a good argument? Why?