Second Paper Topic

Write a 5-6 page, double-spaced, paper on one of the following topics. The paper will count for 20% of your grade. Papers are due Thursday October 28 by midnight, by e-mail.

Be sure that your paper has a clear and comprehensible thesis; that it contains arguments for that thesis; and that it anticipates and responds to likely criticisms.

1. Are there convincing reasons for adopting realism concerning universals? What are the most pressing objections facing the realist about universals? Can she adequately reply to them? Why, or why not? Be sure to provide the necessary background, argue for your claims and consider possible objections to your view.

2. Should we take the claim that there are many ways the world might have been at face value? If not, how should we take it? And, if so, is the claim true or false. Be sure to consider Lewis and Kripke’s papers in assessing this modal claim. Be sure to provide the necessary background, argue for your claims and consider possible objections to your view.

3. Explain the difference between endurantist and perdurantist accounts of persistence through time. Which kind of theory best answers the problem of temporary intrinsics? Be sure to provide the necessary background, argue for your claims and consider possible objections to your view.