Philosophy 190: David Lewis

Short Writing Assignment 1
Due Thurs., Apr. 10.

Instructions

Note: this assignment is for students in Group I *only* (see syllabus for a list
of group assignments).

Please respond to the following question in two pages or less (double spaced).
(Needless to say this should be your own original work.)

Consider the following Humean argument: if A and B are distinct things,
then there can be no absurdity in B's existing while A does not. Therefore, a
supposed inference from B (as effect) to A (as its cause) cannot be logically
valid. Therefore the very concept of a cause is incoherent. How (and in what
way, to what extent) is Lewis able to accept the premise without accepting
the conclusion?