Philosophy 100W: Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 2017 Second Paper Assignment

Paper Mechanics

1. The paper should be between 1000-1500 words. You must include a word count of your paper at the end of the paper. (Tip: write the paper first, and then worry about the word count during the process of revising your paper.)
2. Your name, your student number, your tutorial number, your TA’s name, and the date should appear at the top left-hand side of the first page. The paper should be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch (or 2.54 cm) margins, and page numbers. The paper should have no title page but it should have a title (but not “Paper Two”. Try to think of a catchy title!) The paper should be stapled. You must use MLA style in your paper. If you’re unaware of the requirements for MLA style, here is a link: <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/writing/mla>

Paper Requirements

1. This is an **argumentative paper** that asks you to defend *your own* *position* on the issue of personal identity. **This is *not* a research paper outlining how philosophers have thought about this issue.** While I can’t prohibit you from using outside philosophical sources, I ***strongly discourage*** you from using them, especially from the internet. Everything you need to write this paper is available from the lecture slides and the readings. If you have questions about how to formulate your position, see myself or your TA during office hours.
2. Your paper **must** include the following essential requirements. Please consult the “Tips” sheet I have posted on Canvas for a detailed explanation of each of these elements. If you have any questions, please discuss them with myself or your TA during office hours. **NOTE:** the “Tips” sheet discusses raising an objection. You are **not**required to raise an objection against your argument in this paper (although you’re certainly free to do so if you wish.)

* An introduction to the problem you’re addressing in your paper
* A thesis statement
* An exposition of the argument(s) of the philosopher(s) and/or philosophical theories you’re discussing
* An argument defending your thesis
* A conclusion
* In-text references using MLA style (**Please note: your paper will be penalized by at least 1/3 of a letter grade for failing to include proper references)**

1. Your paper will be graded upon the following components:

* Does it have a clear thesis statement, i.e. a statement of the position you’re defending?
* Does it demonstrate understanding of the debate in the introduction?
* Does it demonstrate understanding of a philosopher’s position?
* Is the argument thoughtful and persuasive?
* Does it address the topic question?
* Does it stay on topic?
* Is the paper well-organized?
* Is the paper free of grammatical/spelling errors?
* Does the paper convey its ideas clearly and concisely?

Instructions for submitting papers

1. You must submit a paper copy of your first draft on Thursday, July 13th, either in tutorial, in your TA’s office hours, or Dr. Warriner’s office hours. You may also submit it to Dr. Warriner’s department mailbox (4th floor, WMC, Philosophy Department) until **6pm.** **DO NOT slip your paper under Dr. Warriner’s/TA’s office door. We will not accept papers via email.** Late copies of the first draft are accepted but you will be penalized 2% per day for each day the paper is late. **No late copies will be accepted one week after the due date, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.**
2. Your TA will return your draft with comments on Thursday, July 20th, either in tutorial or in your TA’s office hours. **Your TA will not email you comments on your paper.**
3. Your revised paper is due Thursday, July 27th, submitted either in tutorial, in your TA’s office hours, or Dr. Warriner’s office hours. You may also submit it to Dr. Warriner’s department mailbox (4th floor, WMC, Philosophy Department) until **6pm.** **You must submit both your first draft with the comment sheet provided by your TA and your revised draft. DO NOT slip your paper under Dr. Warriner’s/TA’s office door. We will not accept papers via email.** Late copies of the revised draft are accepted but you will be penalized 2% points per day for each day the paper is late.
4. You must submit an electronic copy of your **revised draft** to turnitin.com on Thursday, July 27th, by 11:59pm. Papers submitted after this deadline will be penalized 2% per day for each day the paper is late.
5. **NOTE**: You must submit a first draft and the revised paper to earn full credit for the assignment. So, if you hand in the first draft, but not the revised paper, or vice versa, you will not receive any credit for this assignment
6. If you get assistance on your paper, please note the following:
7. Your ideas must be your own. A tutor cannot come up with your thesis statement.
8. You must write the paper yourself.
9. If you get assistance with your writing, you need to document this. Keep all versions/notes of your paper, just in case we ask to see them. Be prepared to provide a name and phone number of the person who assisted you.

Second Paper Timeline and Checklist

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Thursday, July 13th | Thursday, July 20th | Thursday, July 27th |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |   Submit a paper copy of your first draft, either in tutorial, in your TA’s office hours, or Dr. Warriner’s office hours. You may also submit it to Dr. Warriner’s department mailbox (4th floor, WMC, Philosophy Department) until **6pm.**  **You are not required to submit your first draft to turnitin.com** | TA will return paper copy of the first draft with a comment sheet in tutorial or in office hours. | Submit your revised draft, along with the first draft and comment sheet, stapled together, either in tutorial, in your TA’s office hours, or Dr. Warriner’s office hours. You may also submit it to Dr. Warriner’s department mailbox (4th floor, WMC, Philosophy Department) until **6pm.**  **Submit your revised draft to turnitin.com by 11:59pm** |

Paper topic

1. Consider the following exchange in *Shaun of the Dead*, after the group discovers that Barbara, Shaun’s mother, has been bitten by a zombie. David points the gun at her, with the intention to kill her:

Shaun: “She’s my Mum!”

David: “She’s a Zombie!”

Shaun: “Don’t say that!”

Both Shaun and David seem to be making an assumption about Zombie Barbara’s personal identity, i.e. about whether she is the same person at that point as she was in the past.

The question to address in your paper is this: Whose assumption about Zombie Barbara’s personal identity is most problematic and why? Your paper should reference one or more of the theories of personal identity we have considered in class, i.e. bodily criterion, soul criterion, memory criterion, psychological continuity criterion, or narrative criterion.

In your paper, you should first identify and explain which theory of personal identity is implicit in both Shaun’s assumption and David’s assumption about Zombie Barbara’s personal identity. (In other words, how might Shaun and David answer the question: is Zombie Barbara is the same person at that point as she was in the past? What assumption does each of them make about the necessary and sufficient conditions for personal identity?)

Then, provide an argument explaining whose assumption about Zombie Barbara’s personal identity is most problematic and why. (Another way to think of the question: whose assumption about Zombie Barbara’s personal identity is most implausible or counterintuitive?)

Also, if you think it will be helpful, you’re free to introduce other theories or theorists we’ve discussed in class. However, it’s not necessary to do this. If you introduce other theories or theorists in your paper, do so cautiously. Don’t sacrifice the development of your own argument to present the views of someone else.