

**PHILOSOPHY 212**  
**EXTRA CREDIT**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Rule #1 is ... If you do not follow the instructions precisely, you will not receive extra credit!**
- 2. Write no more than 1 (one) typewritten, single-spaced, page (unless you can't help yourself). Put your name at the top. This is due anytime on or before the last day of class, IN CLASS. Absolutely no late extra credit assignments will be accepted!**
- 3. Answer each question in one separate paragraph, numbered at the beginning of each paragraph so it's really obvious which question you're answering. Do NOT have an introductory paragraph or a concluding paragraph.**
- 4. This is worth 0.1 on a scale from 0 – 4, which can potentially raise your grade a whole letter grade, depending on where your final number grade falls. You may turn in TWO of these assignments, for a maximum of 0.2 points (0.1 for each paper). [If you have already done an extra presentation for extra credit, you have received 0.1 for each of those as well. The class total of extra credit is 0.2 points, no matter how they are earned. Please see me if you have questions.]**

**THE OPTIONS:**

**OPTION 1: Write a one page essay, answering the following questions:**

1. Give the best argument you can in favor of cheating in school – either plagiarizing an entire paper or cheating on an entire test. Assume that no one else is cheating, but you want to cheat. Detail the case or scenario and justify cheating in that case, to the best of your ability.
2. Give your honest opinion on whether that scenario or case is truly justified. If you subscribed to any of the ethical theories that we studied in order to formulate your opinion (for the second paragraph), state which theory that is in giving your answer.

**OPTION 2: Read my piece called “A Fair and Balanced Argument in Favor of Gay Marriage,” which can be found on the homepage of my website.**

1. Print this writing off, and mark it up just like I do when I grade your paper: Look for anything that's confusing, grammatically incorrect, spelling, weak argument, factually incorrect, etc. Turn the whole writing in along with your one page write up.
2. Can you come up with arguments against gay marriage that really should have been mentioned or replied to but were not?
3. Do you believe I made a convincing case in favor of gay marriage (even if you are against gay marriage)? Why or why not?

**OPTION 3: Read my piece called “Consistency and the Conservative Abortion Position,” which can be found on the homepage of my website.**

1. Consider the following positions on the abortion issue: (1) No abortions ever, including the impending death of the mother and fetus; (2) Abortion in case of death of the mother and/or death of the mother and fetus; (3) Abortion in position 2, plus pregnancy due to rape; (4) Position 3, plus pregnancy due to consensual incest; (5) Position 4, plus pregnancy involving a fetal deformation, disease, or disorder for which Mom (and Dad or not!) does not wish to be a caretaker; (6) Abortions for any reason up to quickening (when the fetus moves first, around 18-20 weeks); (7) Abortions for any reason up to viability (when fetus can live on its own outside the womb, roughly 24 weeks); (8) Abortions for any reason until live birth; or (9)

Other (please describe – e.g., when the fetus has the ability to experience pleasure/pain). The question: Given my argument in my paper mentioned above, which of these positions is the most defensible (i.e., reasonable or consistent)?

2. Why is the position you chose the best position?
3. Very briefly, what is the best objection against the position you chose to answer question 1?
4. What is the best response to this objection raised in answering question 3?

**OPTION 4: Watch the documentary "Forks Over Knives" (possibly on Netflix? or elsewhere), and answer these questions:**

1. What are the three or four most important points did you take away from this documentary?
2. Are you persuaded by the movie's point that a plant-based whole food diet is healthy and can solve some typical health problems? Why or why not?
3. Do you have any information that disputes the thesis of the movie, or any objections?
4. What did the film do badly or well, by way of making its argument(s)?

**OPTION 5: Watch the documentary "Unnatural Selection" (Season 1: Episode 1 on Netflix), and answer these questions:**

1. What are your positions on the genetic modification for the dog case, the man's HIV case, the boy's eye degeneration case, the man's improving muscle mass case, and the quadriplegic case?
2. Do you agree that these tests should be provided to the masses for \$140, though very few have any expertise in genes or biology?
3. What is the most troubling aspect of this practice, even if you are in favor of all of the treatments?
4. What is the best case of the cases to argue for genetic modification, even if you oppose all of the treatments?

**OPTION 6: Watch the documentary "Cowspiracy" (on Netflix or elsewhere), and answer these questions:**

1. What are the three or four most important points did you take away from this documentary?
2. Are you persuaded by the movie's point that animal agriculture is much more damaging to the environment and contributes to climate change much more than anyone has reported so far? Why or why not?
3. Do you have any information that disputes the thesis of the movie, or any objections?
4. What did the film do badly or well, by way of making its argument(s)?

**OPTION 7: Watch the documentary "A Social Dilemma" (on Netflix or elsewhere), and answer these questions:**

1. How well were you aware of social media companies' manipulation of their "consumers as the products" before watching this documentary?
2. Did you learn anything new? (If you learned a whole bunch of things, which three things stuck out to you the most?)
3. Do you think social media companies are ethical overall, or unethical overall, and why? Is any of them worse than the others, and why or why not?
4. When several executives stated that they do not allow their kids to be on social media, did that say a lot to you? In other words, are you going to be careful about allowing your (future) kids to be around it, if the developers themselves do not allow their kids to use it?