|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Interpretation and Analysis**  ←⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯→ | | | | |
| **Significantly below expectations**: There is an absence of interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions and/or a failure to engage the text. | **Does not satisfy expectations**: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions do not reveal an understanding of “what is at stake” and/or do not effectively identify the basic aims and assumptions of the text. | **Satisfies expectations**: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are correct on all basic points and fit within the standard interpretations and show an awareness of the basic assumptions and aims of the text. | **Exceeds expectations**: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are clear, precise, and reveal a rich understanding of the basic assumptions, strategies, and aims of the text. | **Exceptional**: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are exceptionally clear, precise, and reveal a rich and insightful understanding of the assumptions, strategies, and aims of the text. |
| **Argumentation**  ←⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯→ | | | | |
| **Significantly below expectations**: There is an absence of argumentation and/or no indication of an awareness of other  arguments for or against the position | **Does not satisfy expectations**: Argumentation is poorly organized, lacking clarity and structure, and not well-reasoned and/or does not effectively demonstrate an understanding of other arguments for and against the position. | **Satisfies expectations:** Argumentation is organized, clearly presented, philosophically informed, and generally well-reasoned. In addition, it effectively demonstrates an understanding of other arguments for and against the position | **Exceeds expectations**: Argumentation is well-organized, tightly  constructed, clearly presented, philosophically sophisticated, effective, and well-reasoned. In addition, it shows a rich understanding of other arguments for and against the position | **Exceptional**: Argumentation is exceptionally well-organized, tightly constructed, clearly presented, philosophically sophisticated, effective, and well-reasoned. In addition, it shows a rich and insightful understanding of other arguments for and against the position. |
| **Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology**  ←⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯→ | | | | |
| **Significantly below expectations**: The project fails to employ fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies and/or to demonstrate an awareness of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s). | **Does not satisfy expectations**: The project is not clearly developed in accordance with fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies and/or does not effectively demonstrate an understanding of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s). | **Satisfies expectations**: The project is developed in accordance with fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies.  In addition, it effectively demonstrates an understanding of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s). | **Exceeds expectations**: The project demonstrates facility with a wide range of philosophical concepts and methodologies.  In addition, the project exhibits a deep understanding of the relevant theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s). | **Exceptional**: The project demonstrates facility with and mastery of a wide range of philosophical concepts and methodologies.  In addition, the project exhibits a deep and insightful understanding of the relevant literature, theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s). |
| **Communication**  ←⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯→ | | | | |
| **Significantly below expectations**: There is an absence of clarity, precision, and/or organization. | **Does not satisfy expectations**: Ideas and issues are presented in a manner that is frequently vague or ambiguous. Organization and structure is inconsistent and the strategy employed is difficult to recognize and assess. | **Satisfies expectations**: Ideas and issues are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity and precision. Appropriate tone and word choice are generally employed. The project is developed  with a discernible structure and strategy | **Exceeds expectations**: Ideas and issues are presented with clarity and precision and in a style that is engaging and thoughtful. Tone and word choice is effective and demonstrates an awareness of the audience by attempting to eliminate potential misunderstandings and confusions. The project is developed according to a clear and effective structure and strategy. | **Exceptional**: Ideas and issues are presented with clarity and in a style that is engaging, thoughtful, and insightful. Tone and word choice is not only effective, but also elegant and demonstrates an awareness of the audience in a manner which not only eliminates potential misunderstandings but also enriches understanding. The project is developed according to a clear and effective structure and strategy that is easily recognizable and enhances the audience’s understanding. |

**Grading Rubric for Weekly Writing Assignments**

Weekly writing assignments will be graded according to the following *desiderata* (wherever applicable):

* Clear expression and complete explanation of the relevant views
* Focus on the tasks necessary to complete the assignment, and avoidance of the inclusion of irrelevant or tangential information.
* Textual evidence (with citations) that you understand the relevant views
* Grammar and proofreading do not interfere with expression of relevant ideas
* Good philosophical writing style\*

\*If you are unfamiliar with philosophical writing, or just need a refresher, I endorse these guidelines: <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

The point of the weekly writing assignments is to serve as mid-stakes opportunities for assessment and to provide you with practice of the philosophical skills you will need to master for the final paper, including: *Interpretation and Analysis*, *Argumentation*, *Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology*, and *Communication*.\* As with the final paper, these learning goals will be the dimensions on which your assignments will be evaluated. Your task is to demonstrate excellence in the below areas, wherever applicable, by meeting the above desiderata.

\* The learning goals and primary traits associated with each goal are excerpted and incorporated in the below grading rubric: John Rudisill, “The Transition from Studying Philosophy to Doing Philosophy,” *Teaching Philosophy*, Volume 34, Issue 3, September 2011: 241-271 (Appendix A).