**Prompt for Final Paper**

**Final paper writing assignment**:

The final paper is a high-stakes opportunity for assessment because it represents the culmination of your philosophical skills. The point of the paper is for you to demonstrate that you are familiar with a major view in ethical theory and are able to critically evaluate that view with philosophical rigor, using the skills you have been practicing all quarter:

1. *Interpretation and Analysis*: be able to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.
2. *Argumentation*: be able to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.
3. *Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology*: be able to demonstrate a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.
4. *Communication*: be able to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective, and systematic manner in writing and discussion.

The assignment is to write an argumentative paper. You are expected to argue*against* oneof the arguments or views (from the course material). You are also expected to consider, and respond to, one powerful objection to your argument. You may choose the argument yourself; if you have any questions about whether a particular topic is worth writing on, please ask me beforehand. If you have questions about the norms of philosophical writing, consult readings from the course resources (especially Pryor and Woodhouse).

**Format:** The paper must be between six to eight pages, double spaced, with standard pagination and font size. Use a standard citation method (e.g., MLA or Chicago).

**Your paper must include all of the following elements:**

1. Introduction
   1. Give your thesis statement.
   2. Lay out your argumentative structure.
   3. *Is your thesis a strong and simple statement of your core argument’s conclusion?*
2. Exegetical argument
   1. Explain the philosopher’s argument.
   2. *Are you being as charitable as possible?*
3. Your Core Argument
   1. Explain your argument.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
4. Possible Objection
   1. Explain the objection argument.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
   3. *Is the argument strong or a straw-man?*
5. Your Response
   1. Explain the response argument.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
   3. *Does the argument avoid foot-stomping?*
6. Conclusion
   1. Recapitulate your thesis.
   2. Recapitulate your argumentative structure.
   3. Consider possible implications of your argument.

*The italicized are questions to consider when planning your paper, not questions to be responded to directly.*

**Evaluation:** You will be evaluated on the basis of the grading rubric (available on the course website). Please append (copy/paste) a copy of the grading rubric to your final paper.