

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TERM PAPER, INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

As you will recall from the syllabus instructions, a paper is due for our course. For this paper, you will read 4 articles on the “Problem of Evil,” a classic and (perhaps) timeless problem we will talk about in class. All the articles are either available on Canvas, under “Content,” or online (link found below).

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES

- 1) “Inductive Argument from Evil” (Available online –
PLEASE READ FROM THE BEGINNING AND STOP READING RIGHT BEFORE YOU GET TO “ 2. NIGHT 2.1 At the Barrister: Round One.” ← Section 2, and after, you do NOT have to read

https://infidels.org/library/modern/bruce_russell/dialogue.html

- 2) “Wading through Many Sorrows,” (Available online):

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800698966Chapter1.pdf>

THE ONLY PAPER YOU SHOULD READ IN THAT PDF STARTS ON PAGE 23.

- 3) “The Challenge of the Holocaust” (Available on Canvas)
- 4) “Evil as Evidence of [G-d],” Koukl (Available on Canvas) and at

<https://www.str.org/articles/evil-as-evidence-for-god#.W8jO5S6-MzQ>

(If you cannot find the online articles, please check Canvas to see if there is a copy there.)

Please read all four articles, and then plan to write your paper in this format:

- 1) The entire paper must be no more than 13 pages long – but the minimum is **8 full pages long**. Points will be deducted if papers are less than 8 full pages (even papers that are 7 and ½ pages long will have points taken away).

Please summarize each article (showing you read carefully) on **at least TWO pages per article – EXCEPT FOR THE LAST, SHORT ARTICLE BY KOUKL, which you summarize in ONE full page.** There are a lot of ideas in these articles, so please show you carefully read them and can isolate the major arguments. However, **please save at least one full page at the end of your paper for YOUR OWN point of view on these articles** – after taking all of these ideas in account, please digest them and offer your own perspective on this classic philosophical problem.

To help you visualize how to organize your paper, please follow this basic framework. (Remember, you can write more than this, but this is the MINIMUM.)

PAGES 1 & 2 – SUMMARIZE “INDUCTIVE ARGUMENT...” ARTICLE

PAGES 3 & 4 – SUMMARIZE “WADING THROUGH MANY...” ARTICLE

PAGES 5 & 6 – SUMMARIZE “THE CHALLENGE OF THE HOLO...” ARTICLE

PAGE 7 – SUMMARIZE “EVIL AS EVIDENCE...” ARTICLE

PAGE 8 – YOUR OWN PHILOSOPHY ON THIS ISSUE/PROBLEM

2) **Please make it very clear that you studied the articles carefully,** or else points will be taken away. Also, please provide reasoned analysis – assume your reader does not share your atheism or religious beliefs.

3) In terms of citations, please use this style: (page number) or (paragraph number) – for the articles without pages listed. For example, “she said ‘we ought to philosophize’” (42), or “evil is really unrevealed good in the eyes of the Divine” (paragraph 15). As long as I know where it is coming from, then you will be fine. Always give credit

to your sources, and please do not do anything remotely resembling plagiarism (including having others write your paper for you), since it cheats you out of an honest education and can risk your academic career with serious repercussions.

4) Please use the following specifications for your paper: font size 12, one inch margins all around, double spaced, times new roman font, no excess spacing, avoid using all bold, and double check for spelling and grammar problems. Please do not list the course name, the professor's name, etc. All you need is your full name on the very top line of your page 1, and then you can go into the material on the very next line (or on the same line). No transitions are necessary between pages. To get full credit, please be sure to follow all of these conditions.

5) The due date is listed on our Calendar – and the paper must be submitted through Canvas, under "ASSIGNMENTS." No late papers accepted and no papers accepted over email, so please plan to turn the paper in early.

6) I encourage you to start on your paper immediately, so you do not rush your paper. Please try to hand in something you are proud of. A quality paper, as well as a hurried paper, are easy to spot!

7) It is better to hand in something rather than nothing, since partial credit MAY be able to be given. But it is much better to hand in a paper

that you are happy with! * * ***In addition, it is impossible to pass this paper without significant summaries of all four articles, showing you read them ALL carefully.*** * *

8) Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions along the way. Writing a paper is work, of course, but you should also enjoy getting the opportunity to analyze a point of view and getting clear about your own philosophical positions. **You can learn a lot about yourself by deeply and charitably analyzing a point of view you disagree with;** in fact, if you study it enough, and you are a reasonable person, you may even be persuaded to change your mind a little (or a lot). (Always being open to another point of view, remaining critical of all views especially one's own, and avoiding dogmatism are the hallmarks of a true philosopher, and a thinking person in general.) So try to enjoy the process of philosophizing on some controversial topics.

9) **Good luck!** And, again, please email if you have any questions or concerns.

***** ALL READINGS MAY APPEAR ON THE FINAL EXAM *****