# Homework Amnesty

## Homework 1: COMPLETED

## Homework 2: COMPLETED

## Homework 3:

**Part I.**  (This should take about half a page.) Give a compelling inductive argument for thinking that our society will eventually develop the technology needed to create matrices (massive computer simulations within which people experience a computer-simulated virtual world without knowing they're in a simulation).  Here you'll likely want to consider rates of technological growth.  Discuss how strong this inductive argument is.  (What sample are you looking at?  How large is this sample?  What are you trying to draw a conclusion about?  How representative is your sample of what you’re drawing conclusions about?  How might this argument go wrong?)

**Part II.**  (This should take about half a page.) Give a compelling inductive argument for thinking that, if the relevant technology ever becomes available, our society would use it to create matrices.  Here you'll likely want to consider ways in which people tend to put new technology to use.  Discuss how strong this inductive argument is (answering the same questions as above).

Society has always dreamed about living in a world of matrices. Some fear the idea of it, some would love it, and some think we are already in one. Most often people bring up Moore’s Law when debating whether or not society will develop the technology needed to create matrices. Moore’s law, simply put, is that throughout the history of computing power we double the number of transistors approximately every two years. Do I think that this is a strong enough argument for us to create massive computer simulations within which people experience a computer-simulated virtual world without know they’re in a simulation? Absolutely. We are somewhat close to developing matrices; we’re just missing the part about “without knowing they’re in a simulation.” If you look at how far we’ve come to developing life-like games we’ve already completed half of the battle of developing matrices. The development of matrices may be decades away but it’s not something I can’t imagine not seeing in my lifetime.

If the technology becomes available people will consume it just as they consume any new technology that comes out. Have you ever seen a piece of technology that, as long as it provided some level of consumer use, that wasn’t consumed? As I said earlier, some people want to see the day of when we can create matrices. I personally believe that’ll end up with us all being mentally crazy since we’ll never know whether we are in reality or not but nonetheless, as long as ‘some’ people want to use matrices society will absolutely use matrices if we get the chance.

## Homework 4: COMPLETED

## Homework 5

**Part I.**(½ page)How might one use **Russell’s argument from analogy** to argue the Chinese Room understands chinese?  How strong would this analogy be?

[Note that the key point here will be draw an analogy between something the room does and something you did that was caused by your understanding a language.]

**Part 2.** ( ½ page) How might one use **Sober’s abductive argument** to argue the Chinese Room understands chinese?  How strong would this argument be?

[Note that the key point here will be observe something that the room does, and to argue that the hypothesis that the room understands chinese is the best available explanation for this observation.]

As per usual, a good response would be about a page (typed with normal margins, font, etc...)  It would be hard to do enough in a shorter response; you're welcome to do longer as long as it's thoughtful and well-edited.  (Remember: bigger isn't always better!)  If you have any questions, feel free to email me.

## Homework 6

**Part I.**Come up with three review questions for the ~~midterm~~ final exam.  For each, you should (a) state an initial question, (b) make an attempt to answer it, and (c) explain what more you'd like to know.  Here's an example:

**Q1.**  (a) How exactly does Descartes hope to build up from his foundations?  (b) I understand that foundational beliefs are ones that he knows with absolute certainty (like "I think" and "I exist"), and that he hopes to give valid/sound/indubitable arguments using such beliefs as premises to argue that he can be certain in believing other things too.  (c) But if such arguments yield absolute certainty for their conclusions, then shouldn't their conclusions count as foundational too?  How does this amount to building \*up\* rather than just widening the foundation?

**Q1. (a)** What is the cosmological argument? **(b)** The cosmological argument is a means to prove the existence of God. **(c)** I would like to see

Q2. (a)

Q3. (a)

**Part 2.**On a separate sheet of paper, without any identifying information, please offer me feedback on how the course is going.

**What have been your favorite topics/readings?**

I think by far my favorite topic was religion. It’s a topic that almost any student can get into, rarely are people not passionate on what direction they lean for religion. It is also a great topic because, through the debates, you get to really challenge your own belief if you take them seriously of which I did.

**Were there any topics/readings you think I should consider dropping from the course?**

I wasn’t a huge fan of the mind/body problem.

**What am I doing well as a teacher?**

You’re doing good as a professor, at the beginning of the course I struggled to really understand what the benefit of the debates would be especially when I read about them on ratemyprofessor. However, after taking your midterm I realized how much the debates prepare you and make sure you actually understand the course material.

**What can I do to improve the course for you?**

I’m a huge fan of outlines over powerpoints. If there was a way you could provide outlines to students that might help me grasp the material. I felt when I download the powerpoints I had to go through all of them to find the information on top of all of the graphics and whatnot, so a text-only version would be nice.

## Homework 7: Will post on BB in leu of hw 7

## Homework 8: COMPLETED

## Homework 2: COMPLETED

## Homework 9: Sent you the project info via email two days ago

## Homework 10:

## Homework 11:

## Homework 12

**Part 1.  Review and Feedback on Philosophy of Religion (probably about a page total)**

Which argument in favor of God's existence did you find most persuasive.  Why?

I found that the free will response to the problem of evil as the most compelling for the existence of God. I actually went into this course with an open mind that an All-PKG God existed, but I wouldn’t still be sure exactly which religion you could say is correct. I found that the free will response to the problem of evil as the best means to answer questions that I always wondered, especially as of recently with my own personal life. To let you in a bit of my life, my best friend since high school is on her death bed right now with leukemia (I actually just got done eating my last lunch with her, realistically when you read this she’ll of passed). I struggled with why an All-PKG God would put so much pain in the world, why must she die so young and why have her die at, as shallow as this is, such an inconvenient time of finals week for me? I really was able to grasp that, through reading a lot about this subject for my debate that we had, it really could just be because of a reason we aren’t able to comprehend for example.

Which argument against God's existence did you find most persuasive.  Why?

**Which readings/topics did you like most in the Philosophy of Religion section of our course?**

Problem of evil! I think I maybe enjoyed it the most since it was the basis for a good chunk of our debate. Nonetheless, I found it to be very thought provoking and helped me expand my thoughts on whether or not God exists.

Which readings/topics did you like least?  Do you think I should select different readings or drop any topics?