As far as the strict requirements of the final page paper goes, please adhere to the following criteria:

- ❏ 7-10 pages. A title page does not count toward the page requirement.
- ❏ 12 point font, Times New Roman *only*
- ❏ 1in margins
- ❏ Double spaced
- ❏ Original research. You will submit your thesis and your sources (including at least one not discussed in class) on Canvas by **11:59 pm on May 5th**. If you wish, you may also submit a rough draft by this deadline for comments.
- ❏ You are free to use any citation style that you wish
- ❏ Submit the final paper via Canvas on or before **11:59 pm on May 12th.**
- ❏ Do **not** use a pay-for-paper website or anything kind of cheating. Plagiarism will result in an immediate 0 for this paper, potential removal from the class, and other potential academic consequences.

Here are some suggestions in coming up with a topic and developing it into a paper.

- ❏ Choose a topic / author (either that we have examined in class, or that you have found).
  - ❏ Typically, choosing an author topic is easiest when you have either of the following motivations:
    - ❏ **Defending**: You think that a criticism of a view is faulty or able to be rebutted / refuted. In other words, you would be defending a position from a particular criticism. That, then, would be your thesis. For example, if you think that Kant could respond to the Etiquette Objection, then that would be the purpose of your paper.
    - ❏ **Attacking**: You think that a view / author is making a serious philosophical mistake. In other words, you would be attacking a position as a critic. Your thesis would then be to state and explain that mistake. For example, if you think that pleasure is not the sole motivation for human action, then you would be attacking Bentham and / or Mill.
    - ❏ There are other ways to formulate theses, but these two methods have been useful to me. When in doubt, come to my office hours!

- ❏ Figure out a thesis that you can argue for in a short paper such as this.
  - ❏ For a short paper such as this, you're likely to use around 2 - 4 pages to properly state what the view is that you are attacking / defending. If you are defending a view, you may need more pages as you will need to both state what the original view is, and what the criticism is that you will be defending the view against. Either way, the remaining pages will be used to establish your *original* argument. Given these limitations, it would be beneficial to focus on a rather modest thesis.

- ❏ Originality matters.
    - ❏ Your thesis must be something that is unique to you. You may not, for example, state a view that you know is attributable to another philosopher (even if we have not looked at them). Part of doing philosophy is being able to be creative, and coming up with a thesis original to you. What do *you* think is right / wrong about a view? The answer to that question is your thesis.

- ❏ Argue for that thesis.
    - ❏ It is not a rule that you must adhere to the following, but it is usually to everyone's benefit that you state what your thesis is in the first paragraph of any philosophy paper. Yes, I mean something as simple and clear as, "In this paper, I will argue that so-and-so's theory-of-something is faulty because of reason X."
    - ❏ State clearly and in the appropriate places (see next bullet point) what your evidence is that you are using against a particular person's views. If you think that you have isolated an ethical intuition that a theory leaves out, then help motivate that intuition via cases. If you think that you have found a logical inconsistency in the view that you are criticizing, then say that and explain how what the author says is inconsistent. If you think that an issue in medical ethics is solvable because of particular data, then state that data and explain to the reader how it is relevant.

- ❏ Structure your paper to support your argument.
    - ❏ By this, I mean that the way that you write your paper can actually guide the reader's mind so that they understand how you think about the issue. For example, a standard way to write a philosophy paper is to follow a structure like this:
        - ❏ Paragraph 1: Give 2 - 3 sentence explanation of why this topic is an interesting philosophical topic. State a view that attempts to address that topic. Then, state your thesis about that view. DO NOT use any fluffy garbage such as: "From the beginning of time humans have thought…" Instead, say something like, "In this paper I will argue for …"
        - ❏ Paragraphs 2 through 2+n. Use however many paragraphs are needed to explain the view that you will eventually be arguing against. If you are writing a defending thesis (see above), then remember that you will need extra space to (i) state the original view, and to (ii) state the criticism of that view.
        - ❏ Remainder paragraphs. For the remainder of the paper you will be explaining what you find problematic in paragraphs 2 through 2+n. Any and all evidence that you have, and your explanation of why that evidence is problematic, go here.
        - ❏ Remove the fluff. After you have a draft, it is helpful to go back through your paper and see if you can delete any sentences / paragraphs without

losing any clarity or precision in your paper. If you can, then get rid of them! Once the paper seems perfect to you, then ask someone unfamiliar with the topic of the paper to read through the paper. if they have any questions or confusions, then you will likely need to add more to your paper to address those questions / confusions.

- ❏ In essence, a solid philosophy paper is one which explains things so well, that a moderately intelligent 14 year old could read the paper, and would understand the claims made within.