# Phil 192, Assignment Schedule #3

## Assignment 13.

### HW: Read the selections by Plato and Hudson from pages 112-122. Respond to the following.

1. Socrates makes the key point in his second statement. By analogy with the case described on p. 112, (i) what are problems about saying the gods love piety because it is pious? (ii) about saying it is pious because the gods love it? Explain.

2. (i) What is the (unmodified) divine command theory, and how is it supposed to be subject to objections from arbitrariness? (ii) From Hudson, what is the “modified” divine command theory proposed by thinkers like Adams? How is the modified theory supposed to ward off these objections?

### EX: Hudson develops objections to the divine command theory under the headings (i) The Question of Arbitrariness, (ii) The Teleological Suspension of the Ethical, (iii) Uncertainty about What God Commands, and (iv) Inconsistency with God’s Goodness. For at least one of these objections besides the question of arbitrariness, what is the problem, and do you agree or disagree? Why?

## Assignment 14.

### HW: Read the selections by Adams and Chandler on pages 123-140. Respond to the following.

1. (i) According to Adams, how does the modified DCT escape the charge that cruelty for its own sake might turn out to be not morally wrong? (ii) How does he escape the charge that, in his appeal to love, he appeals to an external moral value?

2. On p. 139, Chandler says, “If the co-extensiveness thesis is true, God’s will becomes redundant, and the D.C.T. is abandoned...; if it is false, we are left with the traditional form of the D.C.T with all its problems.” Carefully explain this claim. That is (i) say what the co-extensiveness thesis is, (ii) what is supposed to go wrong when it is true and (iii) what is supposed to go wrong when it is false.

### EX: Chandler charges that the theist cannot substantively claim that god is ethically good. Toward the end of his article, Adams replies. (i) From Chandler, what is supposed to be the problem? (ii) From Adams, what is supposed to be the solution? (iii) Which do you think is right? Explain.

## Assignment 15.

### HW: Read the selection by Roy on pages 141-157. Respond to the following.

1. According to Mackie, what is supposed to be “queer” about objective moral values? That is (i) what is an objective moral value? (ii) how are moral criticism, method and authority supposed to require objective moral values? And (iii) how do objective moral values run into problems about moral authority (this is the problem about queerness)?

2. What is Roy’s proposed view and how is it supposed to count as a response to the problems about queerness? That is (i) describe the key elements of Roy’s theory. (ii) How is it supposed to respond to the problems from moral criticism, method and authority?

3. Explain a divine command version of Roy’s theory. That is (i) what do we mean by a “divine command” version of the theory? (ii) What difficulties for moral authority might this version of the theory seem to overcome? (iii) Consider the Euthyphro dilemma as applied to a divine command version of Roy’s theory: are god’s commands arbitrary? are they irrelevant? Explain.

### EX: Contrast Adams’s modified divine command theory with the one that results from Roy. (i) How does Adams’s theory block the consequence that moral values are arbitrary? How does Roy? (ii) What objection did we encounter from Chandler against Adams’s theory? Does the same objection apply against Roy? Why or why not?

## Assignment 16.

### HW: Read the selections by Craig, al-Ghāzālī and Maor on pages 83-100. Respond to the following.

1. In class we reasoned as follows,

1. Nothing is greater than infinitely big

2. A whole is greater than its proper parts

3. The totality of time elapsed up to now is a proper part of that which will have been elapsed after now

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4. The totality of time elapsed up to now is not infinite

Based on his first paragraphs from the reading, Ghāzālī’s opponent takes an “Aristotelian” view of the universe on which the sun and planets have *always* been revolving around the earth, and the sun makes twelve revolutions for every revolution of Jupiter. Recast our reasoning to reconstruct Ghāzālī’s point that the revolutions of Jupiter are not infinite. You should (i) set up the argument, and then (ii) use our validity test to show that the argument is valid. Hint: this is easy once you realize that the revolutions of Jupiter are (or correspond to) a *proper part* of the total revolutions of the sun.

2. Explain how Cantor’s correspondence principle can be used to undercut the argument from A16.1. That is, (i) state and explain Cantor’s correspondence principle. (ii) Illustrate the principle by explaining its consequence that the set {1, 2, 3. . .} has the same number of members as the set {3, 6, 9. . .}. (iii) Given this, explain the result that the argument we have been considering is unsound.

### EX: Consider the following attempt to line up the integers with the decimal fractions.

1 – 0.1111111111111111... 9 – 0.9999999999999999...

2 – 0.2222222222222222... 10 – 0.1010101010101010...

3 – 0.3333333333333333... 11 – 0.0111111111111111...

4 – 0.4444444444444444... 12 – 0.1212121212121212...

5 – 0.5555555555555555... 13 – 0.1313131313131313...

6 – 0.6666666666666666... 14 – 0.1414141414141414...

7 – 0.7777777777777777... 15 – 0.1515151515151515...

8 – 0.8888888888888888... 16 – 0.1616161616161616...

That is, repeat the integer over and over except that for “duplicate” cases – 1 and 11, 2 and 22, 12 and 1212, etc. – prefix enough 0s so that no later fraction duplicates an earlier one. (i) Use Cantor’s method to find the first 16 digits of a fraction that is sure to be left off of the list. (ii) Explain why this fraction cannot be on the list, and how Cantor moves to the conclusion that there are *more* decimal fractions than integers. (iii) How is this result relevant to soundness of the argument from A16.1?

## Assignment 17.

### HW: Read the selections by Craig and Sorabji on pages 101-111. Respond to the following.

1. Consider Craig’s case of the infinite library and suppose the shelves are full. (i) Using Cantor’s methods, are there enough spaces to add another book? Having done this, could you add another? and another? Explain. (ii) After this is done, are there any more books in the library than there were in the first place? Explain.

2. How do Craig and Sorabji respond to the case you’ve just described? That is, (i) how does Craig respond? Consider especially his use of the “principle of conversation of space” as described in lecture. And (ii) how does Sorabji respond? Apply especially his example of the columns (or sticks) to the library. Finally (iii) who do you think makes the stronger case, Craig or Sorabji? Explain.

### EX: Consider the library case again. Using Cantor’s methods, how could you add *infinitely* many more books to the shelves? Now are there more than there were at the start? Explain. Hint: It won’t do simply to repeat the method from problem (1) over and over.

## Assignment 18.

### HW: Read the selections by Taylor and Rowe on the Cosmological argument from the web.

1. Consider the following argument,

1. Everything is either dependent or independent

2. Not everything can be dependent (some things are not dependent)

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3. There is an independent thing or being

(i) What are dependent and independent objects, and what is the principle of sufficient reason? (ii) Especially from Rowe, how is the PSR required to support the first premise?

2. Based on both Taylor and Rowe, how is the PSR supposed to support the second premise?

3. (i) How does Taylor motivate the PSR? (ii) On what basis does Rowe object against it? (iii) Which do you think is right? Do you think we should accept that this version of the cosmological argument is sound?

## Final Examination Paper

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