M20HSS316-ITP/**Assignment-2**/due: 4-September-2020,11:59pm

Total points: 10 Word Limit: 750

Instructions:

(i) Submit in Turnitin. Section: **Assignments**

(ii) Use the format below for identifying your submission. Write it on the top as seen here.

M20HSS316-ITP/Assignment-[#]/[Roll number]/Program

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(iii) Your submission must be a single PDF, named with your IIITH id. E.g. 20166737.PDF

(iv) Viewing similarity report: Immediately. Option to resubmit: **No**

(v) Similarity index threshold to be considered for evaluation: **15%**

(vi) DO NOT include the question in your submission.

Consider the 15-step argument of Aquinas' Second Way to prove that God exists. This was discussed in class (L5.T3) and is given below. Consider also the four questions (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4) raised by Stich and Donaldson against Aquinas' First Cause Argument (pages 35-36 of the text book). Explain which premise(s) in the 15-step argument each of the 4 questions challenge. Are any of these questions such that they are not directed against any premise in this argument? Are there any premises which are not challenged by any of the four questions? Frame questions that challenge these premises. Which of your questions do you think is the best? Respond to that question on behalf of Aquinas.

1. There is an ordered series of efficient causes
2. Necessarily, if X is an efficient cause of Y, then X is prior to Y
3. Necessarily, if X is an efficient cause of X, then X is prior to X (from 2)
4. It is not possible for X to be prior to X
5. It is not possible for X to be an efficient cause of itself (from 3, 4)
6. If something is an ordered series of efficient causes, then the first cause causes the intermediate cause(s), and the intermediate cause(s) cause(s) the last effect
7. If a cause is removed from an ordered series of efficient causes, then the effects after that cause are removed as well
8. If there were no first cause, then there would be no subsequent effects (from 6, 7)
9. If an ordered series of efficient causes could precede infinitely, then there would be no first cause
10. If an ordered series of efficient causes could precede infinitely, then there would be no subsequent effects
11. There are subsequent effects
12. An ordered series of efficient causes cannot precede infinitely (from 10, 11)
13. An ordered series of efficient causes either precedes infinitely, terminates in a cause that causes itself, or terminates in an uncaused cause.
14. An ordered series of efficient causation terminates in an uncaused cause (from 5, 12, 13)
15. This uncaused cause is God (definition)