

**Philosophy 110
Spring 2019**

Homework 3

Deadline for Submission: Sunday, 3/10/19, by 11:59 pm.

Part 1: Critical Thinking

Review the course material for Week 4 and complete the following exercises.

Identify each item below as an illustration of either:

A. Legitimate appeal to authority

B. False appeal to authority

1. _____ Olympic gold medalist swimmer Michael Phelps says in a new television commercial that Kellogg's Frosted Flakes are a great and healthy way for children to start their day. Though many doctors disagree with this claim, I still believe it has to be true, since Phelps is such a successful athlete.
2. _____ Phil Jackson, who has won a record 11 NBA championships as a coach, has written a book praising Zen Buddhism. Jackson argues that no other religion or philosophy can give you the motivation to succeed like Zen. Therefore, Zen Buddhism must be the most motivational religion or philosophy available to us.
3. _____ Miles Burnyeat, the noted Professor of Greek Classics at Oxford University, has analyzed the writing style all of the works previously attributed to the ancient Greek philosopher Plato and has concluded that at least five of these works were actually written by someone else. His findings, once studied, have been widely accepted within the community of Classics scholars, and the International Society for Greek Classics has awarded Burnyeat their highest awards for his findings. So, it thus appears likely that some works that we previously thought were Plato's are actually not his at all.
4. _____ City Councilmember Bob Stewart argued strenuously that the city contract for constructing the new City Hall should be awarded to Gotham Construction Company. According to Councilmember Stewart, Gotham Construction is the best construction company in the area. I think we should accept Stewart's recommendation, as he has worked in the local construction industry for decades and knows the local companies. And he knows the owner of Gotham Construction, Dave Stewart, very well: Bob and Dave Stewart are brothers.
5. _____ Thomas Nagel, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University, claims that recent research in molecular biology proves that Darwin's theory of evolution is almost certainly false. Nagel may not have any direct training in molecular biology, and his opinion is certainly contrary to the consensus opinion of molecular biologists working today, but he is a highly intelligent person who has won several awards throughout his career for his work in moral and legal philosophy. If someone that accomplished says that molecular biology disproves Darwinian evolution, then it is safe for us to conclude that molecular biology does, in fact, disprove Darwin's theory of evolution.
6. _____ It has been accepted by physicists for many decades that the universe is expanding, but Saul Permuter, Professor of Physics at the University of California-Berkeley, claims something additional: the rate at which the universe is expanding is actually increasing. Initially, this seemed counter-intuitive to many, since the universe's expansion is viewed as part of the aftermath of a "Big Bang" explosion that occurred over 13 billion years ago, and it had long been theorized that the universe would eventually stop expanding altogether. But Professor Permuter's research that supports his claim has been analyzed

thoroughly by physicists from around the world, and they have all confirmed that his research and findings are accurate. Indeed, Professor Permuter was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for this research. So, even though I do not know very much about physics myself, I think it's safe to conclude that, indeed, the rate at which the universe is expanding is actually increasing.

7. _____ In the prosecution of thirty-five year old New York City physician Daniel Malakov for the murder of his wife, twenty-nine year old Olga Turgenev, the district attorney called an FBI translator named Mansur Alyadinar to the witness stand to testify on what Malakov said to his mistress in a telephone conversation recorded by prison authorities while Malakov was in jail waiting for his trial to begin. According to Alyadinar, Malakov spoke in two languages on the recording: Russian and Bukhari, and he ended his conversation with the line, "I'm going to get away with it." Alyadinar knows Russian fluently, but he does not know Bukhari, so he used Google Translate to translate that final line, which was spoken by Malakov in Bukhari. It seems that this testimony is pretty strong evidence that Malakov made statements that point to his guilt; after all, Alyadinar is a professional translator who works for the FBI.

8. _____ Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell testified before the US Senate Judiciary Committee this afternoon on behalf of Pennsylvania District Court Judge Susan Markham. Markham is being considered for confirmation as a Judge in the US Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Governor Rendell testified that his time as governor allowed him to develop very close knowledge of Judge Markham's abilities and suitability for the job that she is being considered for, and that she is, without a doubt, the best candidate for the job. Since Governor Rendell has had such ample opportunity to observe Judge Markham in her capacity as a District Court judge, not to mention the fact that he is actually married to Judge Markham, I'm willing to believe that his testimony is correct: Judge Markham is the best candidate for the job.

Part 2: The Warren Harding Error

Read "The Warren Harding Error," and provide a medium-paragraph length answer to each question below (using full and complete sentences).

1. What is the "Warren Harding Error"? According to the reading, what is it about Harding that made him so successful in political elections? Why were the voters mistaken?
2. Describe how the Gender IAT is set up. What does the test detect? What are your reactions to the discussion of this test? Are the test results surprising? Are they plausible? Why/why not?
3. Describe how the Race IAT is set up. What does the test detect? What is the author's explanation for why so many people in the US get test results indicating pro-white associations over pro-black associations? What are your reactions to this explanation? Does it sound plausible? Why/why not?
4. What evidence does the author present that tall people (particularly tall men) benefit from positive unconscious associations? In your opinion, why do you think such unconscious associations exist when it comes to height?