

Final Essay Project

Personal Philosophy Assignment

Final Paper Instructions and Rubric

- Assignments submitted through this link will be checked using SafeAssign by Blackboard. Your work will not be used for any purpose other than preventing plagiarism in the University. Ownership of the intellectual property contained in your written work will not be transferred to any third party. Please submit your paper as a Word Document.

The requirements for this assignment are to:

- The final assignment will be to write a detailed explanation of your own personal philosophy and connect your views on these topics to the philosophers who most closely align with your views. You will do this by choosing a few topics from the course that you want to investigate further or clarify your understanding of. For example, if you choose Metaphysics as a topic, you would write about what your personal belief is regarding the existence and purpose of human beings. Are we just material beings, with no higher purpose (existentialism), or are we spiritual beings who have innate understandings of formal concepts such as justice, truth, and beauty (Plato). Topics might include: Metaphysics, Cosmology, Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology, Logic, What is Philosophy (and why should we study it), Ethics, Political Science, Specific Philosophical ideas (Idealism, Rationalism, Materialism, Empiricism, etc.), Specific Ethical Theories, Specific Political Theories, Specific Philosophers (Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Locke, Descartes, etc.), Specific Schools of Thought (Existentialism, Stoicism, Platonism, Logical Positivism, etc.), or another topic directly from the course material. If you would like to write on a topic not listed here, please email the instructor with your suggested topic, for approval.
- Write a six to seven page paper (1500-1750 words) that explains your topics and uses resources from the course or outside research to back up your philosophical viewpoint, and tie it into the viewpoints of famous philosophers.
- Your topics must be clearly introduced in the introductory paragraph of your paper, and the introduction must also include a description of the key points and elements of your paper. Remember that it is much better to pick one, two, or three ideas and write a thorough explanation of your philosophical stance regarding these topics, rather than to pick many topics and give only a brief description of your views on all of them. For example, you might choose to write your paper on your philosophical beliefs regarding Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics.
- Use APA formatting, including a Title Page, Double-Spacing, and 12 point Times New Roman Font. Please cite all references used in the paper using in-text citations, as well as at the end of the paper (on a separate page with a Reference heading).

- The Final Paper will require you to choose one two or three topics that we have studied throughout the course and write an essay that explains your personal philosophy on these topics. The paper should be six to seven pages long (1500-1750 words). You must choose topics that you can cover adequately within the required page length. After you have chosen your topics, go to the unit (or units) that correspond to your topic choices and begin to use the resources in those weeks to gather information for your paper. As you begin to assemble your paper remember to relate your philosophical views on these topics to the philosophers who would most closely align with your views. Please use a formal essay structure for the paper, including an introductory paragraph that introduces your topics and all main points that you will cover. For this assignment please also use APA formatting, including a Title Page, Double-Spacing, and 12 point Times New Roman Font. Please cite all references used in the paper using in-text citations, as well as at the end of the paper (on a separate page with a Reference heading). For information regarding APA, please visit the *Student Success Resources* page in the PHL101 Introduction to Philosophy Blackboard course.

For a detailed grading report, please refer to the rubric on the next page before submitting.

Students: Be sure to read the criteria, by which your paper/project will be evaluated, before you write, and again after you write.