

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER 2

Pick a prompt of your choosing from Section A below and write a short essay on the same (700 – 900 words).

Refer to Section B for other important details.

Assignment Deadline: Friday, November 22, 2019.

A. ESSAY PROMPTS:

1. Just because we, as human beings, are *practically* motivated to take our self-interests into account, how does it follow that doing so is *moral*? Assess and discuss with reference to Rand's doctrine ethical egoism and its philosophically fundamental tenets.
2. What is the *philosophical* nature of Bentham's Principle of Utility? Assess and discuss with reference to your readings.
3. Why does Mill claim that "it is better to a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied; better to Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied" (Mill 300)? Assess and discuss in light of Mill's criticisms of Bentham's utilitarianism.
4. Is it morally permissible to lie in order to save the life of a friend? What does Kant say about this and why?
5. What, according to Aristotle, is the ultimate goal of human beings and how does one achieve this goal?
6. According to Singer, what is wrong with our traditional moral conceptual scheme and why?
7. What is the *nature* and *scope* of our moral obligations towards vulnerable people who might not be in our physical proximity? Assess and discuss the *morally relevant factors* which impinge upon the nature and the scope of our obligations? A strong response to this question would take into account how both Utilitarianism and Kantian Deontology differ in what each takes to be factors of importance having a direct bearing on our moral duties.
8. Is the practice of abortion morally permissible? Which *conceptual* issues have important philosophical bearing on how we morally think about abortion? Discuss with reference to the relevant readings.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Your *primary* aim should be to respond to the prompt! Try to understand the main thrust of the prompt. In this regard, pay special attention to the words which are italicised in the prompt (if any). **Your final submission *must* include the prompt (in verbatim) to which you are responding.**
2. Be mindful of the way in which some crucial philosophical terms are defined in your readings. For example, "deontological", "teleological", "consequential", "ethical", "moral", "a priori", "a posteriori", "categorical", "hypothetical", "rational", "empirical" – these are all terms that have

specific meanings in your readings. It is key part of any philosophical activity to pay attention to the specific meanings of the terms.

3. In writing your essay you may use both the main textbook (“The Originals” / “TO”), or any other reading material posted on iLearn, and/or any of the lecture presentations for assistance. **However, do not plagiarise!** (Any plagiarism would be detected by the Turnitin plagiarism detection software online and would be penalised.) Always try to use your own words and give credit (by using citations) where necessary. If you have to quote something directly always provide a citation. You must make use of both in-text citations, and provide complete citations under a “Works Cited” section at the end of your paper. A good formatting and citation style is the MLA. Refer to the following link for both formatting citation rules:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

4. In order to be able to cite properly, you should download your main textbook in PDF format because the online version does not have any pagination whereas the PDF version does. You will need the pagination in order to be able to cite appropriately.

5. You must upload your essay in form of a PDF through the Turnitin submission link on your iLearn course-page (see above for the submission deadline).

6. Please include your full name and the relevant essay prompt on the first page of your essay. You may include page numbers if necessary.

BEST OF LUCK!