

***Second Discussion Paper*** (Due Tuesday, October 29):

Write a five-page essay on one of the following topics.

1. Is it possible, in your opinion for (a) non-human organisms and (b) non-organic beings, such as robots, to be ensouled?
2. In your opinion, can entities other than humans -- think about animals, corporations, nation states, ecosystems, artificial agents, etc. -- be the bearers of rights and/or duties?
3. What, in your opinion, is the place of emotion in the moral life?
4. Among the major frameworks for ethical decision making that we have discussed are: (1) Deontology (rule based), (2) Consequentialism (such as utilitarianism), (3) Virtue Ethics, and (4) Divine Command Ethics. Explain the basic features of each, and then give an argument defending one of them, or some clearly articulated combination of them, as the optimal framework for ethical decision making.