

Paper assignment # 3

PHIL 13185

Jeff Speaks

Due: Monday, May 7, 5 PM

Below are four topics for your third and final paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get my approval by e-mail first. If you do this, the question that I approve should be on the first page of your essay. The papers should be at most 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced and with reasonable margins and font.

A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late. **Papers must be handed in as email attachments. Papers will not be accepted if handed in any other way.**

If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted under the honor code, please contact me, or review the Philosophy Department's guidelines regarding plagiarism, which are linked from the course web site.

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1. Explain the differences between religious pluralism, religious inclusivism, and religious exclusivism. Which is the most plausible view? Why? Consider the arguments of Hick and Plantinga.
2. Explain Pascal's wager. What, if anything, does it show? Is it possible in some or all situations to believe something because you decide to? If so, should we form beliefs on the basis of the expected consequences of doing so?
3. Explain why Lewis and Mavrodes think that morality provides us reason to believe in the existence of God. Evaluate their arguments; how should someone who believes that some things are morally right and others morally wrong, but does not believe in God, reply?
4. Explain why Joyce thinks that evolution gives us reason to think that our beliefs that some things are morally right and others morally wrong are all false. How should a defender of morality reply? Does argument of the kind defended by Joyce show that other beliefs of ours are also false?