

Paper assignment # 3

PHIL 20208
Jeff Speaks

Due: Thursday, December 14

Below are three 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 should be handed in to the scheduled exam room, which is 118 DeBartolo, at the scheduled exam time, which is from 10:30 to 12:30 on Thursday, December 14. Any late papers must be sent to me as e-mail attachments.

If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted under the honor code, please contact me.

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1. Does either the psychological view or the materialist view of personal identity make room for the possibility of life after death? If not, why not? If so, which is the more plausible view of life after death?
2. Explain Baker's view of personal identity and life after death, and van Inwagen's criticism of her view. How should Baker respond? Is her view of life after death plausible? Is van Inwagen's preferable?
3. Hume argues in §III of 'Of the immortality of the soul' that our experience of the world gives us evidence against life after death; others argue that near-death experiences and other psychic phenomena give us evidence for life after death. Explain what you take to be the strongest version of both arguments. Which is more persuasive? Why?