

## PHIL 13195: Second 5-7 page paper

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Due: in class, Tuesday, November 27

Below are three topics for your second full length 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 handed in after class on the due date will be counted as one day late. 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.

1. In *Meditations* VI, Descartes presents an argument for dualism; in ch. 10 of *Metaphysics*, van Inwagen presents a series of arguments against dualism. Whose arguments are more persuasive on this topic? Why?
2. Explain what Parfit calls 'the bundle theory', and explain his arguments for it. Are these arguments persuasive? What do they show us about the nature of persons?
3. Is free will compatible with determinism? Do we have free will? Take into account van Inwagen's consequence argument, and whatever other arguments from van Inwagen and Sider you think bear on the issue.
4. Explain Kripke's 'rule-following paradox', and defend a solution to it. (It may be one Kripke considers, or one of your own invention.) Be sure to consider objections which Kripke raises in the text, even if only to explain why they do not apply to your proposed solution.
5. Explain Jackson's 'knowledge argument.' Does it show that materialism is false? Why or why not?