

Second paper assignment

PHIL 20229: Paradoxes

Due: Monday, April 30

Below is a description of your first paper assignment. As an alternative to doing this assignment, you may come up with your own topic, though you must get the written approval of me or your TA by email first. If you do this, the question that I or your TA approves should be on the first page of your essay. The papers should be about 5 pages in length, double-spaced and with reasonable margins and font.

You should submit your paper to your TA as an email attachment. **Your TA will be happy to give you comments on this paper, but if you would like comments, you must note this in the email by which you hand in your paper.**

A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late.

Plagiarism is a serious and growing problem at Notre Dame and other universities. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourselves with the University's honor code, as well as with the philosophy department's guidelines regarding plagiarism. Both are linked from the course web site and you should contact your TA if you should have any questions.

Many of the paradoxes we have discussed have no uncontroversial solution. Examples include: the problem of evil; the problem of free will & divine foreknowledge; the paradox of heaven & hell; the nature of the Trinity; the two-envelope paradox; the knower; the surprise exam; sleeping beauty; the lottery paradox; the sorites; and the Liar. Pick one of these paradoxes, and defend your own view about how the paradox should be resolved. The solution defended can be one discussed in class, or one that you have come up with on your own.

A good paper will clearly explain the paradox and clearly defend a solution. This involves both saying why the solution is plausible, and defending it against objections. A very good paper will advance arguments which go beyond the arguments discussed explicitly in lectures.

There is no need to include anything more than a very brief introduction, and no need for a "summing up" paragraph at the end. The focus should be on a clear, concise defense of your view on the relevant topic.

There is no need to do any research for this paper. You are encouraged to spend time thinking about the problem for yourself, rather than reading what other people think about it. If you do use outside sources, any sources you read on the topic, whether or not you quote from them, must be cited at the end of the paper. Any citation style is fine so long as it is clear what you are citing.