

PHIL 83104: Term paper

Due: Wednesday, December 14

Your term paper may focus on any of the topics we've discussed in the course. It may be, but need not be, a development of one of the shorter papers you wrote for the class.

The goal for this paper is that it approximate a publishable journal article. Journal articles take many forms, and so there are many forms which your term paper might take. It might be a short, *Analysis*-style analytic article; it might propose a novel view or argument regarding one of the topics we've discussed; it might be a mainly critical paper; it might be a more historical paper focusing on the interpretation of one of the authors we've discussed.

I do not want this to be mainly a research paper. As in the case of a good journal article, the focus should be on your contribution to the topic at hand, rather than on lengthy summaries of the existing literature. However, seeing what your contribution is might require some knowledge of the literature on your chosen topic; I'd be happy to recommend extra readings to you, or to talk to you about how much, if any, extra reading your topic requires.

I have no particular length in mind for these papers. There is no reason why your paper cannot be quite short; if you can make an interesting and novel contribution to your topic in a very short paper, by all means, do so. If you are looking for some rough guidelines, I would guess that most papers will fall into the 10-20 page range. Your paper should not exceed thirty pages. (Quite likely, if it does, you need to work on expressing yourself more concisely.)

I am happy to read drafts of these papers, and to discuss them with you either in person or by email. Please hand the papers in by sending them to me as email attachments.