

Third 5-7 page paper

PHIL 13195

Due: Thursday, December 12

(late papers accepted without penalty until Saturday, 12/14)

Below are four topics for your third paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get my approval by email first. If you do this, the question that you 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. You should turn in the paper to me as an email attachment. A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late. I am happy to read rough drafts, but these must be submitted 7 days or more before the due date by email.

Please use page numbers, and write the number of the topic you are addressing at the top of the first page of the paper.

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 page.

1. Is abortion ever morally permissible? If so, when? Explain how your view on this particular issue relates to your general views about what makes actions right or wrong. Explain, and respond to, what you take to be the two most difficult objections to your view.
2. What does Moore think that it takes to prove something? Does Moore succeed in proving the existence of an external world? Why or why not? If so, explain how Descartes might respond to Moore's proof, and why you think that that response is flawed. If not, say whether you think Moore fails to meet his own standards for proof or those standards are flawed (or both).
3. Should the death penalty be legal? If not, are there any circumstances in which it should be legal? In either case, explain how your view on this particular issue relates to your general views about the conditions under which certain punishments for crimes are just.
4. Explain Goodman's new riddle of induction, and say how you think that the problem should be solved. Be sure to consider, and respond to, what you take to be the strongest objections to your view.
5. Are you a material thing or an immaterial soul? If the former, respond to the arguments of Descartes and Jackson. If the latter, respond to what you think are the two strongest arguments from van Inwagen for materialism.