

Short paper #3

PHIL 10106

due: March 26

have a rough draft ready for discussion on March 19

This paper will have three parts, which should be clearly numbered and separated:

- (1) We have discussed three views of what is required for you to exist at some future time: (i) your immaterial soul must exist at that time, (ii) the material thing which you are must exist at that time, or (iii) something must exist at that time which stands in the right psychological connections to you. Either say which of (i)-(iii) you think is most likely to be true, or explain some other view which you think is more likely to be true than any of (i)-(iii).
- (2) Explain what you take to be the strongest argument in favor of the view you state in part (1).
- (3) Explain what you take to be the strongest argument against the view you state in part (1), and say why in the end you are not convinced by it.

While you can write more or less as needed, a rough guideline is between 0.5 page and 2.5 pages for each of parts (2) and (3). In most cases part (1) need only be one sentence long. The paper should be handed in as an email attachment to your TA. There will be five short paper assignments in this class, and every student must complete four of them.

Grading rubric

Papers will be judged according to the following seven criteria:

- (i) in (1), clearly states a view;
- (ii) in (2), explains an argument for the position stated in (1) clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (iii) in (2), explains why the premises of that argument are plausible;
- (iv) in (3), explains an argument against the position stated in (1) clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (v) in (3), explains why that argument is not convincing;
- (vi) in accomplishing one or more of the above, makes substantial original points which go beyond material discussed in lecture and discussion sections; and
- (vii) is free of grammatical and spelling errors.

An A paper accomplishes all 7. A typical A- paper would accomplish (i)-(v) and (vii), but not (vi); but in general an A- paper is one which fails to meet one of the above criteria. A B+ paper

is typically one which fails to meet two of the above criteria, or egregiously fails to meet one. A B paper is one which fails to meet three of the above criteria, or fails to meet two, one of which it egregiously fails to meet. And so on. Obviously, meeting or failing to meet these criteria is a matter of degree, and we will take that into account.