

# Short paper #5

PHIL 10106

*due: April 23*

*have a rough draft ready for discussion on April 16*

Answer one of the following two questions:

- (1) Is moral realism, moral nihilism, or moral relativism true?
- (2) What is the best life?

In answering these questions, be sure to explain what you take to be the strongest argument for the view you defend, and to explain and respond to what you take to be the strongest argument against the view you defend.

While you can write more or less as needed, a rough guideline would be a total paper length of 2.5 - 5 pages, double-spaced.

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) clearly states a view;
- (ii) explains an argument for that view clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (iii) explains why the premises of that argument are plausible;
- (iv) explains an argument against the view clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (v) 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.