

# Final reflection paper

PHIL 10106

*due: May 5 at the end of the day*

Our current situation makes it impossible to have an exam of the ordinary kind. So we will be replacing the final exam with a short final paper.

In this class, we have talked about a number of different topics: the existence of God, free will, the survival and identity questions, what you should believe, and how you should live. Much of our discussion has been abstract. But each of these topics is also closely related to your life.

All of our lives have been reshaped in various ways by the COVID-19 pandemic. In your final paper, I'd like you to reflect on the relationship between the pandemic and one or more of the topics we have discussed. This gives you a few options. Here are two:

- You could discuss a way in which the pandemic, or its effect on your life, has changed your thinking about one of these topics
- You could discuss a way in which one or more of the arguments we have discussed sheds light on the responses of individuals and governments around the world to the pandemic

There are other possibilities as well; you should feel free to be creative.

A typical paper would be 2-3 pages, double spaced, but longer papers are welcome as well.

You can submit a rough draft to your TA for comments, but that rough draft must be handed in 7 days before the paper is due.

The paper should be handed in as an email attachment to your TA.

Papers will be judged according to (i) how well they explain the relevant aspect of the pandemic or its effects, (ii) how well they explain the relevant arguments or topics in our class, (iii) how well they bring out interesting connections between the two, (iv) clarity of expression, and (v) freedom from spelling and grammatical errors.