

PHIL 10106: Paper #2

due: November 12

have a rough draft ready for discussion on November 7

In your second paper you should respond to **one** of the following two prompts:

- (1) Do we have free will? Explain and defend what you think is the strongest argument for your view. Then consider and respond to what you think is the strongest objection to that argument. Finally, explain what you take to be the strongest argument against your view about the reality of free will. (So, if you think that we have free will, explain what you think is the best argument against our having free will; and the opposite if you think that we do not have free will.) Then explain why you do not, in the end, think that the argument is sound.
- (2) What is the answer to the identity question and the survival question? Explain and defend what you think are the strongest arguments for your answers. Then, consider and respond to what you think are the strongest objections to those arguments. Finally, explain what you think is the strongest argument against your answers to the identity and survival questions, and explain why you do not, in the end, think that that argument is sound.

The paper should be handed in as an email attachment to your TA. You may submit a rough draft to your TA, but that must be handed in 7 days before the paper is due (so by November 5).

Grading rubric

Papers will be judged according to the following eight criteria. Your paper should:

- (i) answer the initial question;
- (ii) explain an argument for that view clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (iii) make a good case that the premises of that argument are plausible;
- (iv) explain an objection to the argument and makes a good case that it is not persuasive;
- (v) explain an argument against your answer to the initial question clearly, making explicit all relevant premises as well as the logical relations between them;
- (vi) make a good case that this argument is unsound;
- (vii) in accomplishing one or more of the above, make substantial original points which go beyond material discussed in lecture and discussion sections; and
- (viii) be free of grammatical and spelling errors.

An A paper accomplishes all 8. A typical A- paper would accomplish (i)-(vi) and (viii), but not (vii); 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; but this should give you an idea of how you will be evaluated.