

“Philosophy in the world” assignment
PHIL 102, Hendricks, Summer 2015
DUE DATE: Due Friday, June 12, by 5pm

This is a **multimedia web project**. By that I mean that you will be submitting this assignment by working on the main course website and creating a blog post (<http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102>).

Why am I asking you to do this? What you are talking about in this assignment can be of value not only to Christina and Jonathan or even other students in the course, but to many other people. What philosophy is is rather a mystery to quite a few people, and I think it could be useful to many to have a list of ideas about the nature of philosophy and how we can see it all around us. So I’m asking you to do this assignment publicly. And images, videos, or other multimedia just make it more interesting when it’s posted on a website!

However, you have the option of either using a pseudonym, making your assignment password-protected so only people in the course can see it, or private just to Christina so no one else can see it. The choice is up to you.

I. What should be in your assignment

1. Find something out there in the world beyond the course that you think counts as philosophical activity. It must be something that isn’t obviously connected to philosophy (e.g., a philosophy blog would obviously be connected to philosophy, or a newspaper column like The Stone from the *New York Times*, which is written by philosophers: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/category/the-stone/>).
2. Describe the activity or artifact you have found, and give a link to it if it’s on the web.
3. Argue for why the activity or artifact counts as philosophical.
 - a) Do so by first defining what philosophy means to you, and referring to at least one philosopher we have discussed in class to show how this definition fits what they do
 - b) Then argue for why and how the activity or artifact you have found counts as philosophical
4. Finally, include somewhere in your post (doesn’t have to be at the end) an explanation of one way in which you engage in philosophical activity in your life outside of class, based on the definition of philosophy you have given earlier. If you can’t think of anything, talk to Christina for help.
5. In your assignment you must have, in addition to text, **at least one image, or embedded video or audio file**. Ideally you would have more than that. If what you have found for (1) does not lend itself well to media beyond text, please talk to Christina and see what your options are.
 - The images or audio files you post must be either public domain or licensed to allow reuse. And if they are the latter, they must be attributed to their original creator correctly. There will be resources on the page where this assignment is posted to explain what I mean by this, and how you can correctly attribute images.
 - Videos posted on YouTube or Vimeo can be embedded into the assignment even if they aren’t licensed for reuse.

II. How long the text should be, if you’re doing this as an individual

I don’t have a hard and fast rule for this; basically it should be as long as necessary to include all the elements noted above. Still, I don’t think you can do this well in less than 500 words at a minimum, and I don’t think it needs to be more than 1500 words at a maximum (which doesn’t mean that you should try to hit the maximum, and add in unnecessary things to do so!). **If you’re doing this assignment in a group**, the word count minimum is higher—see below.

III. If you choose to do this assignment in a group

As noted on the syllabus, you can do this assignment on your own, or in a group with others. If you do it in a group with others, here is how that will work:

- There cannot be more than four people in a group for this assignment; you can work with people in your small group for the class or with other people instead.
- Your group will need to meet with Christina to write up a task list of who is going to do what, to split up the tasks evenly, and to get the site set up so you can all work on the same post.
- For part (1) above, you will need to discuss at least *two* activities or artifacts outside the class instead of just one (you can do more than that if you wish, but it's not necessary).
- Part 3(a) above can be the same for both activities or artifacts discussed in part (1), but 3(b) will clearly be different for each.
- Each person in the group will have to include a separate section for part (4), above, talking about what they do in their own lives. These should not significantly overlap with each other.
- You will need to have at least two images, videos or audio files for part (5), above.
- The text for the assignment must be at least 800 words rather than a minimum of 500 if you're doing it as an individual.
- 80% of the mark for the assignment for each person will be a group mark: everyone will get the same mark for this portion, based on the quality of the project; 20% of the mark for the assignment will be based on a mark for the particular portion each student is responsible for, according to the task list.

IV. Miscellaneous important details

Citations for quotes and paraphrases: Just like with an essay, any time you use a quote or you paraphrase an idea from any text (whether from readings assigned for class, or from another source), you must cite the source of that quote or idea. But for this assignment you can cite things differently. Mostly you'll be citing web resources, I would imagine, and all you need to do for that is to give a URL. You can do that by either giving a hyperlink on a phrase ([like this](#)), or by linking to the text of the URL itself, like this: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/> For text-based resources, cite them like you do for the essays for this course, including a bibliography for anything not assigned in the course.

Avoid plagiarism: Any use of another's words, including just a sentence or part of a sentence, without citation, constitutes plagiarism. Use of another's ideas without citation does as well. To avoid plagiarism, always give a citation whenever you have taken ideas (even if you have put them into your own words) or direct words from another source. **Please see this page on the course website for information on how to avoid plagiarism,** especially when you're paraphrasing ideas or quoting from another source. <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/resources/>

Audience you should write for: You are writing this assignment as a public resource, so write for someone who is not in the class, has not read the texts, and has not attended the lectures. Explain your view, and the arguments of the philosophers you discuss, in as much depth as would be needed to make them clear to such an audience.

Late assignments: If you are submitting your assignment late, you must also submit a "late paper form," [accessible on the course website on the page that has this assignment, under "Assignments."](#) Late assignments will receive a 5% per weekday penalty, after the due date and time, unless you have an acceptable excuse for turning in your essay late. There is a 5% per weekend penalty as well. So, if you turn it in after 5pm on Friday, June 12 and before 5pm on Sunday, June 14, it's 5% off. If you turn it in after 5pm Sunday and before 5pm Monday June 15, it's 10% off, etc. You should contact Christina before turning in a late assignment, unless this is impossible.

V. Marking criteria

Your assignment will be marked according to:

- Whether it fulfills all the requirements listed above
- The clarity and comprehensiveness of the description you give of the activity or artifact “in the world”
- The quality of your explanation of your definition of philosophy, and how well you tie it to one of the texts we’ve read for the course
- The strength of the argument you give for why the activity or artifact you discuss “in the world” is philosophical, based on your definition of philosophy
- The strength of the argument you give for why an activity you engage in outside of the course is philosophical, based on your definition of philosophy

Note that, as discussed above, if you are doing this assignment in a group, 20% of the mark for the project for each student comes from an evaluation of the particular part of the project each student was responsible for.

VI. How to submit your assignment

1. Publicly, with a pseudonym, or non-publicly: You will need to submit the assignment on the course website (<http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102>) but you have several choices, depending on how public you would like to make it:
 - a. You can make it public, and use your real name
 - b. You can make it public, and use a pseudonym
 - c. You can make it password-protected so that only other students in the class can see (use the class password, which is the same for the password-protected readings for the course)
 - d. You can make it private just to Christina

How to do each of these options will be explained in a screencast video posted on the course website, on the page where this assignment is located (will be there as soon as it’s ready!)

2. Specific steps you’ll need to take regardless of the option you choose in (1) above
 - a. Go to <http://blogs.ubc.ca> and sign in with your CWL.
 - b. Then, go to our course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102> and on the right-hand side, go to “Sign up to be an author on this site,” and give the class password (email Christina if you’ve forgotten it).
 - c. Then you can start creating a blog post from the “dashboard.” Watch the screencast videos that will be posted soon on the page where this assignment is posted, for how to do so. I will also go over how to add an image, a video, or an audio file.