

**Second essay assignment**  
PHIL 102, Hendricks, Fall 2013

**DUE DATE: Due Friday, Nov. 1, by 9am at the latest**—submit this essay on the Connect site for the course (<http://connect.ubc.ca>), under “Assignments.” Bring 1-2 copies of your essay to give to one or more members of your small group. We’ll work out in discussion sections who is reading whose essay, so you’ll know in advance how many copies of your essay you need to bring. Alternatively, you could post your essay on your small group’s discussion board on the Connect website for this course (<http://connect.ubc.ca>), but **it should also be posted by 9am on Nov. 1** if you’re not bringing a paper copy to your tutorial that day. Otherwise you will get a (-) (half credit) for peer feedback. This is to ensure that everyone has the essay a week in advance, rather than some people getting it on paper a week in advance and others online many days later.

**I. Instructions for content of first essay**

The second essay gives you a chance to revise your first and add to it. So the second essay is still about one or both of the following questions, just as the first one was.

- (1) What is philosophy?
- (2) What might its value be? And/or: Why might it be good to engage in philosophical study or activities?

What you add to a revised version of your first essay could be one of two things (not both—you don’t have the space for both!):

- (a) a criticism of one or more arguments by the philosopher you’re discussing, or
- (b) a comparison/contrast of what two of the philosophers whose work we’ve read so far would say in answer to one or both of the questions above.

As before, if one of the philosophers you’re discussing in your essay is Plato, you should discuss some of what Plato says in at least **two** of the texts we’ve read by him (*Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Gorgias*).

**Revising your first essay**

What does it mean to “revise” an essay? It doesn’t mean to only add in or take out a few words here and there, or change a couple of sentences. That is what one might call “editing,” something one should do before submitting an essay. Revising means to take the comments you got, whether from your TA or peers, and think carefully about the essay as a whole and how you might improve it. It can mean deeply reworking major parts of the essay in some cases. Often the questions or concerns raised can’t be simply answered by adding in a sentence or two (though some of them might be). You may need to rearrange entire paragraphs or even, in some cases, re-do most of the essay.

We can only see the comments given to you by your TA, of course, but we will be looking to see if you’ve addressed those in some way in your revision, and part of your mark will depend on whether you’ve done so. Some of those may require minor changes (e.g., punctuation or grammar), but some may require you to alter the essay quite a bit to address the concerns well.

**As before, your essay must have the following elements (see also the essay writing guidelines and the marking rubric on the main course website, on the same page as these instructions, under “Assignments”):**

1. *Give a thesis statement in the introduction* that covers all parts of the argument in your essay (what the philosopher(s) would say to one or both questions, how they are similar/different, or what you will criticize). A thesis statement can be more than one sentence if need be.
2. *Provide arguments in the body of the essay to support your claims* that this is what the philosopher would say, being sure to point to what the philosopher says in the texts we’ve read as evidence. You can paraphrase the philosopher’s claims in your own words, and/or use quotes. It’s best to use quotes when you

are speaking about a very specific thing a philosopher says, or when the particular words used are important to your claims; paraphrasing is good for more general ideas, or if the particular words used are not crucial to your claims. It's probably best to do some of both.

3. *Give a conclusion that wraps up the argument* in some way. It can summarize your main points, or repeat the basic idea of the thesis, or possibly provide a nice quote that wraps everything up. There are numerous ways to conclude an essay; just be sure you have a conclusion and don't just stop in the middle of the argument in the body of the essay.

## **II. Instructions for format of the first essay**

**Page length, margins, etc.** Your essay should be 4-5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, with margins between 0.75 and 1 inch, and font size between 10 and 12 points. It can be a little less than 4 pages or a little more than 5, but not much.

**Citations for quotes and paraphrases:** 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. If you use only texts assigned for the course, you do not need to provide a bibliography or "works cited" page at the end of the paper, just the author and page number after the quote or paraphrase (or, if we read more than one work by the same author, give the author, title of the work, and page number in parentheses). But if you use anything beyond what is assigned for the course, you must provide a bibliography or "works cited" page. You may use any of the standard citation methods: e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian. If you are unsure how to use any of these, please see this page on the course website, which has links for how to cite sources: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/resources/> (see: "Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism")

**Avoid plagiarism:** It is the policy of the Instructor to prosecute plagiarism to the fullest extent allowed by UBC. 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 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—quite a lot of plagiarism is not on purpose, just because students don't understand the rules! <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/resources/>

**Depth of explanation and narrowness vs. breadth and superficiality:** It's usually best to focus your paper on a small number of claims and argue for them in some depth rather than trying to range widely over a very large number of claims that you then only have space to justify very quickly. This is especially the case in a short essay like this. You may not be able to talk about everything you think the philosopher would say in answer to one or both of these questions in such a short space. So pick one or two main things the philosopher would say and focus on those.

**Audience you should write for:** Write both of these essays as if you were writing 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.

**Criteria for marking essays:** See the "Guidelines for Writing Papers for this Course," and the essay marking rubric, both posted on the course website (under "Assignments").

**Late penalty:** Late essays must be accompanied by a "late paper form," accessible on the course website on the page that has this essay assignment, under "Assignments." Late essays will receive a 5% per weekday penalty, beginning after the due date/time, unless you have an acceptable excuse for turning in your essay late. If you turn it in after 9am but before 5pm Friday Nov. 1 it will be 5% off; if after 5pm Fri. Nov. 1 but before 5pm Monday Nov. 4, it will be 10% off, if after 5pm Monday Nov. 4 and before 5pm Tuesday Nov. 5, it will be 15% off, etc. You should contact Christina or your T.A. before turning in a late essay, if possible.