

Third essay assignment
PHIL 102, Hendricks, Fall 2013

DUE DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 27, by 9am at the latest—submit this essay on the Connect site for the course (<http://connect.ubc.ca>), under “Assignments.”

I. Instructions for content of third essay

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

- (1) What is philosophy?
- (2) What might its value be, for an individual or for a group/society? Why might it be good for a person to do philosophy, or for a society to have people in it doing philosophy? What can philosophy accomplish?

For the third essay, you must have both of the following:

- (a) A comparison/contrast of how at least two philosophers might answer one or both of these questions (no more than three philosophers), at least one of which must be from the following list: Mill, Singer, Nussbaum, Vice (both could be from that list if you wish)
- (b) Give your view, your evaluation of one or more of the arguments given by each philosopher. You can either agree with them or disagree, but in either case you need to give an argument for how and why.

You can revise your second essay by either: adding a philosopher to discuss that you didn't talk about before, or adding evaluation where you didn't have that before.

Your thesis for the third essay should include:

- How the philosophers would answer one or both questions above and the main similarity or difference between them
- Your evaluation of their arguments

A thesis statement can be more than one sentence long. You could say what the philosophers would answer in one sentence, and what you will say in response to that in another, if you wish.

Revising your second essay

As noted for the second essay, revising doesn't mean only adding in or taking out a few words here and there, or changing 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.

As before, your essay must have the following elements

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, your evaluation). 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 third essay

Page length, margins, etc. Your essay should be 5-7 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 5 pages or a little more than 7, 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; 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. <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 your essay 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 Wed. Nov. 27 it will be 5% off; if after 5pm Wed. Nov. 27 but before 5pm Thurs. Nov. 28, it will be 10% off, etc. You should contact Christina or your T.A. before turning in a late essay, if possible.