

Philosophy 185  
Fall 08  
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### **Second Paper: Moral Responsibility and Evil**

Begin by briefly setting out the essential facts of Robert Alton Harris' crime and childhood, as described in Watson's "Responsibility and the Limits of Evil: Variations on a Strawsonian Theme." Then explain **two** of the following accounts of responsibility and what each should say, and why, about whether or to what extent Harris is responsible for his crime: Wolf's Reason View, O'Connor's Agent Causal View, and Pereboom's Hard Incompatibilist view. Evaluate each view as completely and carefully as you can, being sure to include in your evaluation consideration of the resources of each view to make plausible claims about the Harris case. Finally, explain which account of responsibility you find most convincing (it can be one of those mentioned above, but need not be), and defend your answer.

#### *Instructions:*

- (1) Your paper should be no more than 2300 words in length. Please write the word count on the front of your paper.
- (2) Your paper should have a cover sheet. Your name should appear on the cover sheet, and not elsewhere on the paper, but the title and page count should appear on the first page of the paper.
- (3) Please type your papers, using a 12-point font and 1-inch margins on all sides, and double space.
- (4) You are encouraged to discuss the ideas of your paper with me and with your fellow students. At the same time, the *writing* of your paper must be entirely your own.
- (5) Please use the Advice for Writing a Philosophy Paper.
- (6) Hard copies of the papers are due on November 24 at 11 am, as are electronic versions uploaded to turnitin (use the instructions from the last paper). Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a valid excuse given to me in advance if at all possible.

Good Luck!

