

First Set of Paper Topics for Phil 185 Philosophy of Religion Professor Eric Watkins

1. Reconstruct and evaluate Van Inwagen's argument in "Of 'Of Miracles'". In your reconstruction, consider Van Inwagen's reconstruction of Hume's argument as well as his explicit objection(s) to that reconstruction. In your evaluation, be sure to provide your own reasons for or against Van Inwagen's position.

2. Reconstruct the most plausible formulation of the argument from religious experience and state the most plausible objections raised against it in the readings. (You should consider the views of Broad, Pojman, and Alston.) Evaluate the state of the debate, providing your own reasons.

Papers should be 5-7 pages in length. Papers are due Dec. 3 at the beginning of class.

You must turn in a hard copy of your paper in class **and** submit an electronic version to turnitin.com (instructions below)

One more set of paper topics will be assigned later in the quarter.

Turnitin.com Instructions

Go to <http://Turnitin.com>.

If you have used Turnitin.com before, log in with your e-mail address and password at the top right hand corner of the page.

If you are new to Turnitin.com, click on "new users". This will take you to a guided menu that will ask for your e-mail address, allow you to create a password, and ask for basic information to set up your user account. You do not have to give your UCSD PID number to create your user account.

Before you can submit a paper, you must enroll in a class.

To enroll in a class: Click the enroll in class button on your student homepage. Enter the class ID and class enrollment password for your class and click submit. These numbers are "2975772" and "Philosophy", respectively.

If the class information you entered is correct, the class will appear on your homepage. If the class ID and enrollment password are not accepted, please make sure you are entering the password exactly as it appears (all Turnitin passwords are case sensitive). (If you continue to experience difficulty enrolling in your class, please contact me after verifying that you have the correct class information.)

To open your class portfolio:

Click on your class's name. Your class portfolio displays the assignments that your instructor has created. You can submit a paper to an assignment in file format or by copy and paste. Both methods outlined below.

To submit a paper: Click the submit button next to the assignment to which you would like to submit your paper. On the paper submission page, use the pull down menu to select your method of submission (file upload or cut and paste). To submit a paper as a file, click the browse button and locate the paper you would like to submit. We accept papers in MS Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, and plain text format. To submit a paper using cut and paste, copy the text of your paper from your word processing program and paste it into your browser. Enter a title for the paper and click submit. Once you submit a paper, it will appear in your class portfolio. You will receive an e-mail receipt for your submission. Print and save this receipt as proof of the time and date of your paper submission.