

Short Paper

Phil 14: Metaphysics

Prof. Christian Wüthrich

due: 5 February 2009

Instructions

Pick one of the following topics. Write a 5-page (double-spaced, typed, one-inch margin, normal font size, etc.) paper answering the question(s). In addition, add one page detailing the references. (No internet references unless it comes from a legitimate refereed source.) Your response essay must be clearly structured, precisely worded, validly argued, and diligently spell-checked. Be as concise as possible without compromising clarity. No need for an elaborate introduction or conclusion—just answer the questions as best you can. Build strong arguments by looking at the issues from both sides while answering likely objections to your position.

There are some additional rules to keep in mind, as specified on the syllabus. The deadline **5 February 2009 at the end of class**. For each day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from your point total, although no negative point totals will be given for the midterm papers. The midterm paper must be submitted **both as hard copies as well as through turnitin.com by the deadline** in order to earn credit. You must enroll at turnitin.com by creating a new profile. You will need the following course information:

Class ID: 2459432

Enrollment Password: phil14wi09

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Topics

1. Does the “free will defense” answer the deductive problem of evil? The inductive problem of evil?
2. Does Hick’s “soul-building” reply to the problem of evil succeed?
3. What is functionalism about the mind? What are some challenges to the position?
4. What is the identity theory of mind? Is multiple realization a problem for it? Why or why not?
5. What is Rowe’s argument against the ontological argument for God’s existence? Does it stand up to scrutiny?
6. Carefully describe the (organic) Design Argument for God’s existence (in the best form you can). What are some challenges to it?
7. Carefully describe the Argument from Fine-tuning for God’s existence (in the best form you can—probably using the Sober paper). What are some challenges to it?
8. The philosopher Elliott Sober (see the supplementary reading on the website) thinks that the best theist response to the Problem of Evil makes the Design Argument unavailable. Why? Is this right?
9. Critically evaluate one or two of David Hume’s criticisms of the Design Argument.