

## **Term paper requirements**

As outlined in the syllabus for the course, 30% of your final grade is based on a five-page type written essay. The essay should meet the following topical guidelines

### 1. "rational emotions or emotional reasons?"

Is it possible to think about stuff without being influenced by our emotions?

### 2. Philosophers to Focus On:

- Emanuel Kant : theory of a categorical imperative, Sticking to the moral rulebook, Empiricism and Rationalism could be combined and that statements were possible that were both synthetic (a posteriori knowledge from experience alone, as in Empiricism) but also a priori (from reason alone, as in Rationalism).
- David Hume
- Plato/ Socrates

### 3. Things to Notes

-you should simply focus on what you think is the MAIN points made by each philosopher with regards to your thesis (a page/page and a half), along with ONE quote from the assigned text.

- Proper bibliography and citations are required. Using MLA, you should cite the author of the quote and page number in the body of your text, and then have a complete bibliographic reference in your "Works Cited" section

### Evaluation and grading of the final draft

The final draft will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Argumentative clarity and structure (five points)
2. Effective use of assigned readings, research, and lectures (five points)
  - You must construct an argument in defense of your position using the course materials and outside research. You must demonstrate how your position relates to at least two of the philosophical theories (rationalism, empiricism, pragmatism, etc.) A minimum of three citations from course material is required ( course material used: 50 readings in philosophy, fourth edition, and Donald C. Abel)
3. Response to potential objections and/or criticism (five points)
  - The essay must contain at least one potential objection to the thesis you are defending, as well as effective response to this objection
4. Spelling and grammar (five points)
  - Excessive spelling mistakes and major grammatical errors will be penalized.
5. Bibliography and references (five points)
  - You must include a minimum of three quotations from our textbook (50 readings in philosophy, fourth edition, Donald C. Abel)

### A note on plagiarism

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. If you quote someone, or paraphrase them, or even get an idea from someone else's work, you must cite the source. Whether a book, website, magazine, professional journal, or newspaper, you must tell me exactly where you found information you are using in your paper.

### Paper outline

As described above, the structure of the paper it's very important. This is an argumentative essay, and as such, in must include certain components. Failure to construct your paper in accordance with the following outline (or at the very least, to submit a paper which contains all of the following components) can result in a significant reduction in your grade.

#### 1. Introduction

- A. a clear thesis statement
- B. case study, paper summary (where applicable)

#### 2. Argument

- A. a description/discussion of a philosophic theory which supports your position
- B. a brief account of how this theory supports your thesis

#### 3. Response to potential objections

- A. potential objections (description of a philosophical theory which stands in opposition to your belief- or your justification for it)
- B. your response to this objection

#### 4. Conclusion