

PHIL 4603: Metaphysics
Prof. Funkhouser
Paper Assignment

Longer Paper Assignment (300 points)

You are to write an approximately 10 page paper on some topic, as discussed below. Your paper can be a bit shorter or longer, but I will not read past the 15th page (seriously).

You may write on any article or material that we covered since the midterm. This includes the following three topics: personal identity, causation, and realism/anti-realism. To give just one example, you might argue, contrary to Parfit, that identity is what matters for survival and then explain how you handle the apparent cases of fission that helped motivate his position. Regardless of your chosen topic, I do not want your paper to be merely expository. Rather, for whatever topic you choose I expect you to raise an objection by counter-example or argument, or provide a further argument/reason in favor of a position, or press for clarification where needed, or generalize the author's conclusion to another domain, etc. You very well might find it helpful to do some research and reading beyond the assigned articles. If so, cite this appropriately. But, such external research is not necessary for a satisfactory performance on the paper assignment. Finally, be sure to run your topic by me for approval before you begin writing.

Make sure that your paper is typed, double-spaced, written in proper English, stapled, with sane margins and the pages numbered.

Paper Due Date: Monday, December 3rd, 2007