

PHIL 3923H: Honors Colloquium on Free Will
Prof. Funkhouser
11/7/06
Paper Assignment #2

Paper Assignment #2 (150 points)

You are to write an approximately 5 to 7 page paper on the following topic. Your paper can be a bit shorter or longer, but I will not read past the 8th page (seriously). Do not bother with any background material — simply launch into addressing the assigned topic. No research is necessary, though you are certainly welcome to do some if you desire. Make sure your paper is typed, double-spaced, written in proper English, stapled, with the pages numbered.

Paper Due Date: Tuesday, November 28th, 2006

Topic: On p. 31 of *Responsibility and Control*, Fischer and Ravizza make a distinction between guidance control and regulative control. They argue, in line with Frankfurt, that guidance control (and not regulative control) is the type of control required for moral responsibility. Your paper assignment is to write on guidance control. I will not give you a specific assignment this time, but instead suggest that you consider questions like the following:

1. Are Frankfurt, Fischer, and Ravizza correct in their claim that guidance control, but not regulative control, is required for moral responsibility?
2. Is the particular account of guidance control offered by Frankfurt or Fischer and Ravizza correct? Why or why not?
3. How should guidance control be understood?

So, you can focus on either the account of guidance control offered by Frankfurt or that offered by Fischer and Ravizza (or both). Do note that Frankfurt does not use the vocabulary of “guidance control” (I believe), but he does offer an account of it nonetheless. Guidance control simply is the kind of control that grounds moral responsibility, and Frankfurt does offer an account of this. Present reasons, analogies, and/or examples to support your case.