

PHL 275, Summer 2014 - Introduction to Ethics Final Essay

Task: To write a critical essay. Here are some suggested topics:

1. What is the role of emotion in moral judgment? How does this compare with the role of reason? Is either the 'source' or moral judgment, or do both play a role?

Readings: Hume, Nagel, Mackie, Korsgaard, Bennett

2. Moral relativism, if true, threatens to undermine the objectivity of ethics. Is cultural moral relativism true or false? Given your answer, what implications does this have for the objectivity of moral beliefs, and for the practice of ethics?

Readings: Prinz, Mackie, Rachels

If you would like to write on another topic you are encouraged to do so, but you must talk to me or your TA first. Secondary readings are not necessary for this assignment, though you can feel free to utilize other texts from the course if you feel it is appropriate.

Length: 2000-2500 words (a deduction of one letter grade for going over this amount; from a B to a B-, for example)

Due Date: August 10th, 2014

Task Description: Your essay should perform two functions: to show that you know and understand the material you've decided to write about, and to show that you can critically engage with it.

Office Hours: If you bring your old assignments, a rough draft, a thesis, or even some notes to office hours, myself or your TA will be able to give you quite a bit of help. The more prepared you are, the more useful our meeting will be. My office hours are after every class; our TAs will announce theirs via blackboard.