

Short Paper

Phil 14: Metaphysics

Prof. Christian Wüthrich

due: 5 February 2015

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 a cover page with your name and all identifying information and 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 is **5 February 2015 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. The short paper must be submitted **both as hard copies as well as through <http://www.turnitin.com> by the deadline** in order to earn credit. You must enroll at <http://www.turnitin.com> by creating a new profile. You will need the following course information, depending on who your TA is:

TA:	John Dougherty	Kyle Sereda
Class ID:	9221086	9221089
Enrollment Passwords:	014john	014kyle

Note the difference between lower case ‘l’ and the numeral ‘1’. If you have any problems with using <http://www.turnitin.com>, you can contact the Instructional Web Development Center of Academic Computing Services at 858-822-3315 or iwdc@ucsd.edu.

Topics

1. Does the ‘free will defense’ answer the deductive problem of evil? The inductive problem of evil?
2. What is Rowe’s argument against the ontological argument for God’s existence? Does it stand up to scrutiny?
3. Carefully describe the (organic) Design Argument for God’s existence (in the best form you can). What are some challenges to it?
4. Carefully describe the Argument from Fine-tuning for God’s existence (in the best form you can—possibly using additional materials). What are some challenges to it?
5. 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?
6. Explain and critically evaluate one or two of David Hume’s criticisms of the Design Argument.