

PHILOSOPHY 100

Spring 2017

Essay Assignment #4

Due: Wednesday, May 3

General Instructions: Attach this page to the front of your paper. Do not put any plastic covers on your paper. All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font.

Write a 3-4 page essay on one of the following topics.

Nietzsche's Philosophers of the Future

In what ways does Nietzsche's conception of philosophy, often suggested in his remarks about the "philosophers of the future" challenge the traditional conception of philosophy? How does Nietzsche's philosophy resurrect the ancient debates between Heraclitus and Parmenides and also between Socrates and the Sophists. To what extent would you agree or disagree with Nietzsche's conception of philosophy?

The Death of God

Explain what Nietzsche meant by the "death of God." How does this "death of God" relate to his perspectivism? What is the crisis he sees coming as a result of this "death of God" and what is his response to this crisis? Why does he find a reason for cheerfulness in this "event"? What is your response to Nietzsche's thought?

Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Explain briefly the three central ideas introduced in Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, the overman, the will to power, and the eternal recurrence. How might one understand Nietzsche's suggestion that *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* is a tragedy? What is your response to Nietzsche's philosophy expressed in the central ideas of the text?

The Ethics of War and Peace

Explain the difference between the three main approaches to the ethics of war and peace: pacifism, war realism, and just war theory. How is war realism related to the political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes? What is the difference between the three branches of just war theory: *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, and *jus post bellum*? According to just war theory when is a war justified? Are the principles of *jus ad bellum* adequate in determining when going to war is justified? Which of the main positions in the ethics of war and peace would you most agree with?

Civil Disobedience

According to Thoreau what is the highest way one can serve the state? When does Thoreau say that one has an obligation to disobey the law? How can one engage in civil disobedience and not destroy the state? What are the keys to civil disobedience as suggested by Thoreau and then developed by Martin Luther King Jr in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"? Can civil disobedience still be an effective strategy for improving the state today?

Engaged Buddhism

Explain what Engaged Buddhism is and how it has developed out of Mahayana Buddhism and then reflect on any of the readings provided on the course website.