

# PHILOSOPHY 100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Spring 2017*

*1<sup>st</sup> Essay Assignment*

Due Monday, January 30

General Instructions: 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. Submit the paper as a Word document or a pdf file through Laulima.

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

*The Love of Wisdom*

According to the oracle at Delphi, why was Socrates the wisest of all men? What does this story suggest about the love of wisdom? Why does Socrates say at the end of the *Apology* that “the unexamined life is not worth living”? In your response explain why Socrates thinks philosophy is so important, both for the individual and the state? To what extent would you agree with Socrates?

*Socrates' Last Words*

How might Socrates' last words sum up Plato's philosophy? In your response summarize Plato's philosophy as outlined in the *Phaedo*, both his metaphysics and his epistemology. How does Plato's philosophy agree more with Parmenides than Heraclitus? To what extent would you agree or disagree with Plato's philosophy?

*The Myth of the Cave*

Explain how Socrates's story of the Myth of the Cave in the *Republic* illustrates Plato's philosophy. How does Plato's philosophy contrast with the Sophists' view that is summed up in Protagoras' statement that “Man is the measure of all things”? To what extent would you agree more with Plato or Protagoras?

**Grading** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maximum Points**

**1) Writing**

Grammar and spelling, composition and style. Your essay should be well organized. There should be an introduction, development of a theme, and a conclusion.

**20** \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Philosophical Content**

The essay should reflect an adequate understanding of the texts. Your exposition of the text should include *at least two quotations* from the primary text material. All quotes should be properly marked within the text and must include a reference to the text cited.

**50** \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Commentary**

Your own thoughtful reflections on the topic.

**30** \_\_\_\_\_

## *Handling Citations*

There are a number of ways of handling citations in your papers. One could just use footnotes or endnotes. An example of using footnotes is like the following: According to Socrates, “the unexamined life is not worth living.”<sup>1</sup> If you are citing the same text a number of times you can also just include the text reference in the sentence like this: According to Socrates, “the unexamined life is not worth living” (*The Apology*, 38a). Notice the format of the punctuation here. The period goes after the text reference—otherwise the reference is stuck in no-sentence-land between two sentences. If you use this format then you would have to include the text information, which otherwise was included in the footnote, in a bibliography at the end of your paper. Notice the difference in format of the footnote and bibliography. The difference between footnote and bibliography format is not as clear in citing Plato, since he has only one name. Let’s say I wanted to cite our textbook where Magee finds it “doubtful whether any philosopher has had more influence than Socrates.”<sup>2</sup> If I wanted to include the text reference in the sentence it would look like this: Magee finds it “doubtful whether any philosopher has had more influence than Socrates” (Magee, p. 23). Then, of course, the reference information goes into a bibliography.

Now let’s say you want to cite a longer quotation. In order to save valuable space you could then indent the quote and use single spacing. What seems most outrageous is that Socrates refuses to simply just shut up, which might perhaps have been enough of a counter-penalty to save his life. Socrates, however, has a good reason for this:

Now this is the most difficult point on which to convince some of you. If I say that it is impossible

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<sup>1</sup>Plato, *The Apology*, trans. G.M.A. Grube, in *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: from Thales to Aristotle*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2000), 38a.

<sup>2</sup>Bryan Magee, *The Story of Philosophy: A Concise Introduction to the World’s Greatest Thinkers and Their Ideas* ( London: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2001), p. 23.

Notice in a footnote, first name comes first followed by last name, then the title of the text, and then publisher information (Location: Publisher, publishing date) comes in parentheses.

for me to keep quiet because that means disobeying the god, you will not believe me and will think I am being ironical. On the other hand, if I say that it is the greatest good for a man to discuss virtue every day and those other things about which you hear me conversing and testing myself and others, for the unexamined life is not worth living for man, you will believe me even less. (*The Apology*, 37e-38a)

You could, of course, use a footnote for this citation. If you include the reference within the body of the text as illustrated above then note the difference in punctuation here as opposed to the earlier example. Notice here you don't use quotation marks around the citation because it is obvious what is being cited. Also the text reference stands outside the period of the last sentence. Here are examples of bibliographic entries:

### Bibliography

Magee, Bryan. *The Story of Philosophy: A Concise Introduction to the World's Greatest Thinkers and Their Ideas*. London: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2001.

Plato. *The Apology*, trans. G.M.A. Grube, in *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: from Thales to Aristotle*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2000.

Notice in a bibliography the last name goes first, then a comma followed by first name. Then a period and then the title of the text. Always use italics or underline whenever referring to the title of a book. Notice there are no parentheses in a bibliographic entry. Bibliographies are organized alphabetically.