

PHILOSOPHY 100

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2017

Essay Assignment #2

Due Monday, October 2

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 your paper to Laulima as either a Word document or a pdf file.

Write a 3-4 page essay on one of the following topics. In your response explain some of the key terms and cite some key passages from the text.

Chinese Philosophy

Explain the central concern of Chinese Philosophy and then write a brief explanation of the difference between the Confucian philosophy and Daoism. Then choose to expand on either Confucianism or Daoism. Focus on a couple of your favorite passages from the *Analects of Confucius*, the *Daodejing* or the *Zhuangzi* and explain how these passages express something important about Confucianism or Daoism. To what extent do you think the teachings of these ancient Chinese philosophies are relevant for us today?

Indian Philosophy

Explain the central concern of Indian philosophy and then write a brief explanation of the difference between Hinduism and Buddhism. Then choose to expand on either Hinduism or Buddhism. Focus on a couple of your favorite passages from either the *Upanishads*, the Buddhist *Pali Canon*, or the *Prajnaparamita Sutras*. To what extent do you think the teachings of these ancient Indian philosophies are relevant for us today?

Grading

Maximum Points

1) *Writing*

20

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

2) *Exposition*

50

The essay should reflect an adequate understanding of the texts. Your exposition of the texts should include some citations from the primary text material.

3) *Reflection*

30

Your own thoughtful reflections on the topic.