

PHILOSOPHY 100

Fall 2024

3rd Essay Assignment

Due: Monday, December 2

General Instructions: Upload either a Word or pdf file to Laulima. Use the following format to title your file: **lastname #2**

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

Hobbes vs Locke on Political Philosophy

What is meant by ideas of the “state of nature” and the “social contract”? Explain the basic differences between Hobbes and Locke on the “state of nature” and the “social contract.” Why is Hobbes’s “state of nature” necessarily a state of war? How does the image of the Leviathan illustrate Hobbes’s idea of government? What is the main purpose of government for Hobbes? What is the main purpose of government for Locke? What do you think about this difference on the purpose of government?

Locke vs Rousseau on Political Philosophy

Why does Rousseau think that Locke’s social contract is a swindle by the rich? What is the famous argument that Locke makes to explain how private property is acquired? How does Locke at first suggest limits on private property but then go on to justify unlimited wealth? Should there be limits on private property? How does Rousseau’s idea of the purpose of government challenge Locke’s view? How is this relevant today?

Empiricism

What did John Locke mean by the tabula rasa and how did he use this notion to establish the starting point of empiricism? How did Locke then try to solve the epistemological problem? What was the problem with Locke's solution? Is Locke right about the tabula rasa hypothesis? What is meant by “Hume’s fork”? How did Hume come to skeptical conclusions that threatened to undermine the optimism of the Enlightenment? Is Hume right that all matter of fact statements need to be based on sense evidence?

Grading Rubric

1) Writing 20%

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

2) Philosophical Content 50%

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.

3) Commentary 30%

Your own thoughtful reflections on the topic.

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.”¹ 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” (Plato 2000, 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.”² 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 2001, 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:

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

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

Now this is the most difficult point on which to convince some of you. If I say that it is impossible 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. (Plato 2000, 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. 2001. *The Story of Philosophy: A Concise Introduction to the World's Greatest Thinkers and Their Ideas*. London: Dorling Kindersley Limited.

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

Notice in a bibliography the last name goes first, then a comma followed by first name. Then a period and then year of publication, 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.