

PHILOSOPHY 100

Spring 2025

Final Essay Assignment

Due Wednesday, May 14 (11:40 AM)

General Instructions: Upload either a Word or pdf file to Lamakū. Use the following format to title your file: lastname phil 100 final. 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 4-6 page essay on one of the following topics:

Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Future

What is meant by *nihilism*, the crisis of modernity that Nietzsche anticipates coming in our time, and which he describes with the metaphors of the "death of God" and an "eclipse of the sun"? How does Nietzsche's conception of the philosopher as artist, lucid dreamer, and intrepid seafarer suggest his response to this crisis? Does Nietzsche's philosophy provide a reason for cheerfulness in this time?

Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Explain briefly what Nietzsche meant by the three main ideas of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*: the *overhuman*, the *will to power*, and the *eternal recurrence*. How does the strange thought of eternal recurrence play into Zarathustra's challenge to humanity to remain loyal to the earth? What do you think of Nietzsche's thought considering the challenge we face in the problem of ecological crisis and climate change? Is it necessary to give up other-worldly hopes to remain loyal to the earth?

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?

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?

Responding to Environmental Crisis

What is the evidence that climate change is happening and is caused by the burning of fossil fuels that powers our modern civilization? Reflect on either Aldo Leopold's *Land Ethic*, Arne Naess's *Deep Ecology*, Thich Nhat Hanh's *The Sun My Heart*, or the Hawaiian *Mana'o of Mālama Honua* as a way of responding to our current environmental crisis. Can we get off the *Titanic* and onboard the *Hōkūle'a*?

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.