

For this course, you will be asked to produce a set of ten brief (1-2 page) response papers, as well as to write three longer philosophical papers. There will also be a midterm and a final exam. The final will not be comprehensive.

Your response papers will be the “R” in a “Q&R” format, where the “Q” is a question that emerges in class as a result of our discussing the assigned reading. The focus of these papers will vary depending on the question that emerges. You may be asked to clarify a point raised in class, explain an argument, or develop an argument of your own. The purpose of these papers is to give you practice in philosophical thinking and writing. Papers must be submitted electronically and will be due before the beginning of the next class period. In order to receive full credit for this part of the course, you must submit ten papers that receive a “satisfactory” evaluation. *Late response papers will not be accepted.*

Each of the longer papers will ask you to present and defend your own view related to an issue connected to one of the readings for the course. Topics for the first two papers, 6-8 pages long, will be drawn from our readings in ethical theory. The third paper, 8-10 pages long, will be connected to the “contemporary problems” section of the syllabus. Guidelines for how to write these papers, as well as a list of suggested topics, will be distributed in class.

I will return your first paper to you with comments but without a grade. My comments will address how well you develop the philosophical content of your paper as well as how well you present this content in written form. You will then need to revise your paper and turn in a final draft. Based on the comments you receive on your second and third papers, you may elect to revise and resubmit these papers to improve your grade.

*Unexcused first paper final drafts, and unexcused second and third papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but you will lose half a grade (e.g. A- to B+) on the first day your paper is later, and every two days thereafter. Unexcused second and third papers may also not be resubmitted for an improved grade.*

Late papers will be accepted without penalty if (a) you let me know in advance your paper will be late; and (b) you have a reason that is acceptable and confirmed in writing, either from a physician, Health Services, or the Dean of Students’ Office.

The midterm and the final will comprise short-answer and essay questions. The final will be held during finals week at the scheduled time: