

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society  
Fall 2019  
Second short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Wed, Sept 25th. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write roughly 400-600 words answering the following questions.

What does Cardinal Bellarmine mean in his 1615 letter to Foscarini when he says that Foscarini and Galileo are speaking “suppositionally and not absolutely”? Why is this distinction relevant in the trial of Galileo?

How can Galileo’s observations of the Earth’s moon, the moons of Jupiter, and the rings around Saturn be used to argue against a geocentric cosmology? How might a supporter of geocentrism respond? In your opinion, would good scientific reasoning lead someone to reject geocentric cosmology and accept heliocentric cosmology after reading and studying the Copernican theory in 1600? What about after reading and thinking about Galileo’s discoveries? Be sure to give reasons defending your view in this case.