

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Spring 2017
Second short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Thursday, Feb 16th. **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 one page (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, do these observations of provide good reasons for rejecting geocentric cosmology and shifting to heliocentric cosmology?