

Philosophy 3330: Philosophy of Science
Spring 2016
Second short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Tuesday, Feb 23th. **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 moon, and of the moons of Jupiter, be used to argue against a geocentric cosmology? How might a supporter of geocentrism respond? In your opinion, do these observations provide good reasons for rejecting geocentric cosmology and shifting to heliocentric cosmology?