

Phil 5312 Fall 2024
Final Paper Assignment

Instructions: Write an argumentative paper of around 1,500 to 2,000 words (or roughly 6-8 double spaced pages – this is not a hard limit). The general guidelines are as follows. First, your paper must critically engage one or more of the topics we have discussed in class. Second, your paper should not *merely* summarize the position(s) of some of the authors you discuss or describe some factual or technical details; it should in some way locate ideas relative to each other, synthesize those ideas, criticize them, defend them against important objections, or develop them in your own way. Third, the topic of your paper should be of an appropriate scope given the length constraints.

Topics: Anything relevant to our class is fine. A paper about conditionals is natural: is Stalnaker right that the indicative and subjunctive have the same semantics, what could ground the truth of a counterfactual, is there really an important distinction between big and little miracles, etc. But it is also acceptable to write about modal logic.

Due Date: You should submit your paper to me by email by Friday morning, December 13th. Any easily readable format such as .pdf or .docx is okay.

Collaboration: Collaboration on this assignment is encouraged. Students are free to discuss the topics with one another, read each other's papers, and offer suggestions. The only restriction is that each student must write their own paper containing their own ideas and words.

Alternate assignment: You may do an additional problem set instead of this final paper. The due date will be the same. A problem set with problems related to conditional probability will be posted on the website. If you wish to work on something else, you must come talk to me.