

**Phil 5330 Fall 2013**  
**First Paper Assignment**

**Instructions:** Write an argumentative paper of 2,000 to 3,000 words (roughly 4-6 single spaced typed pages). The general guidelines are as follows. First, your paper must critically engage one or more of the topics we have discussed in the first seven weeks of 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.

**Due Date:** You must submit your paper to me by email before noon on Friday, October 11th. Any easily readable format such as .pdf or .doc 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.

**References:** All sources used in the writing of your paper must be properly referenced. This applies to material in the course readings, other published material, lecture notes from this class and other classes, material 'published' on the internet, and ideas contributed verbally by other students. Information about proper procedures and formats for references can be found on the course website. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a lowered grade or even an automatic F in the course; it may also lead to charges being brought before the university. If you have any questions about these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Reading Drafts:** I am happy to talk about your papers during office hours or if you make an appointment to meet me in my office. I am also happy to read drafts of papers, on a time-permitting, first-come, first-served basis. For example, if you get a draft to me on Monday the 7th, it is likely that I can get it back to you by Tuesday or Wednesday.