

Second and Third papers on Happiness

PHIL 102, Spring 2010

DUE DATES: Second paper: in discussion section Friday, March 5

Third (final) paper: in the main lecture class Monday, April 12

Note (as explained below) that you must turn in a copy of the first paper with comments by your T.A. or

Christina along with your second, and a copy of the second paper with comments by your T.A. or Christina along with the third.

I. Instructions for content of second paper

Your second paper should stick to the same topic as the preliminary paper on happiness, where you answered one of the three main questions of the course: (a) What constitutes a happy life for humans? Give one or more of the most important elements. (b) What is the relationship between happiness and morality? E.g., you could consider one or more of the following: Must one be moral to be happy? Does the nature of what counts as moral action have to do with providing happiness for oneself and/or others? (c) What sort of responsibility, if any, do governments have to promote the happiness of their citizens? Your second paper can be significantly different from your first, in that you may have found that the argument in the first paper just isn't going to work as it is. You might have to change it significantly. But the question you're addressing should remain the same.

For the second paper you must discuss (at least part of) the view of at least one philosopher we've talked about in the course so far (likely Plato or Epicurus, but you can discuss the Stoics if you wish, since we'll talk about them in lecture right after the break). You may use the view of the philosopher you choose in any number of ways, for example: (i) as something that you use to help bolster your own argument, something that agrees with your view; (ii) as something that disagrees with your view and thus provides an objection (to which you must then provide a response); (iii) as something that indicates some implications or consequences of your view, or illustrates or provides an example related to it. However you use the arguments from the philosopher you choose, you should discuss them in significant depth rather than making passing reference to them in a sentence or two. Consider the points about "audience," below. Still, the main focus of your essay should be on arguing for your own view, such that you use the philosopher's arguments as a means to support that (even if through responding to a potential objection from them).

Your second essay must have the following elements (some of which is copied verbatim from the instructions for the preliminary paper):

1. Give a thesis statement in the introduction that states your answer to the question you've chosen to focus on (see list above, under "stick to the same topic as the preliminary paper on happiness").
2. Provide arguments in the body of the paper for your answer to your chosen question. Your arguments should provide reasons that anyone could conceivably consider valid. In other words, you are not just giving your own personal view, such that you could simply say you think this, but others need not. The point here is to try to come up with reasons for your conclusion that others could also accept (even if they are not persuaded by your arguments, the arguments should be ones that any rational being could discuss with you and conceivably accept). As part of your arguments for your conclusion/thesis, discuss the view of at least one of the philosophers we've read so far (Plato, Epicurus, the Stoics) (see above for how you could incorporate their view into your argument for your thesis).
3. Give a conclusion that wraps up the argument in some way. It can summarize your main points, or repeat the basic idea of the thesis, or possibly provide a nice quote that wraps everything up. There are numerous ways to conclude an essay; just be sure you have a conclusion and don't just stop in the middle of the argument in the body of the essay.

Turn in a copy of your first paper, with comments by your T.A. or Christina, along with your second paper. Part of your mark for the second paper will come from seeing if/how you address the comments from the first. You do not need to include the peer review comments (but you may do so if you have them and if you wish).

II. Instructions for content of third paper: Same as above, except that for the third paper you must discuss (at least parts of) the views of at least two philosophers we have studied in the course before the third paper is due. One of these can be the same philosopher you discussed in the second paper (so you can revise your arguments about that philosopher's view from the second paper). Or, if you choose, you may discuss two philosophers, neither of which were discussed in your second paper. Your discussion of these philosophers should follow the same format as in the second paper (see above for how you can incorporate their views into the argument for your thesis). Again, similar to the second paper, your third paper can be significantly different from the second paper, though it should be on the same topic/question.

Turn in a copy of your second paper, with comments by your T.A. or Christina, along with your third paper (you do not need to turn in a copy of both your first and second papers with the third, just the second). Part of your mark for the third paper will come from seeing if/how you address the comments from the second. You do not need to include the peer review comments (but you may do so if you have them and if you wish).

III. Instructions for format for both the 2nd and 3rd essays

Page length, margins, etc. The second essay should be between 4-5 pages, and the third essay should be between 5-6 pages, both typed, double-spaced, with margins between 0.75 and 1 inch, and font size between 10 and 12 points.

Citations for quotes and paraphrases: Any time you use a quote or you paraphrase an idea from any text (whether from readings assigned for class, or from another source), you must cite the source of that quote or idea. If you use only texts assigned for the course, you do not need to provide a bibliography or "works cited" page at the end of the paper, just the author and page number after the quote or paraphrase (or, if we read more than one work by the same author, give the author, title of the work, and page number in parentheses). But if you use anything beyond what is assigned for the course, you must provide a bibliography or "works cited" page. You may use any of the standard citation methods: e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian. If you are unsure how to use any of these, please ask the Instructor or your T.A. for help.

Avoid plagiarism: It is the policy of the Instructor to prosecute plagiarism to the fullest extent allowed by UBC. Any use of another's words, including just a sentence or part of a sentence, without citation, constitutes plagiarism. Use of another's ideas without citation does as well. To avoid plagiarism, always give a citation whenever you have taken ideas or direct words from another source. Please ask Christina if you have any questions about this.

Depth of explanation and narrowness vs. breadth and superficiality: It's usually best to focus your paper on narrow claims and argue for them in some depth rather than trying to range widely over a very large number of claims that you then only have space to justify very quickly.

Audience you should write for: Write both of these essays as if you were writing for someone who is not in the class, has not read the texts, and has not attended the lectures. Explain your view, and the arguments of the philosophers you discuss, in as much depth as would be needed to make them clear to such an audience.

Criteria for marking essays: See the "Guidelines for Writing Papers for this Course," posted on both the "Handouts" link and the "Assignment Instructions" link on the front page of the course web page (on Vista). Unlike the preliminary paper on happiness, the second and third papers will receive marks (letter grades). In addition, you will receive comments from at least one other student on the second essay, since it will be peer reviewed in discussion section (the third essay will not be peer reviewed). The peer review comments will not factor into your mark for the second essay, but should be used by you to revise for your third essay.

Late penalty for both the second and third essays: Late essays must be accompanied by a "late paper form," accessible on the course web site on Vista (under the "Handouts" and "Assignment Instructions" links on the front page). Late essays will receive a 5% per weekday penalty, beginning after class time when the essay is due unless you have an acceptable excuse for turning in your essay late. So, for the second essay, if you turn it in after your discussion section on Friday March 5 and before 5pm on Monday March 8, it will be 5 points off, if you turn it in after 5pm Monday March 8 and before 5pm Tuesday March 9 it will be 10 points off, etc. You should contact Christina or your T.A. before turning in a late essay, if possible.