

### Second Paper Assignment

Note: the general guidelines have been expanded from the first assignment. Please look them over.

#### General Guidelines

1. The second paper is **due on Tuesday, October 9**. Late papers will be penalized.
2. All papers must be double spaced, **three to five pages** in a reasonable font (12 point Times, for example). This means approximately 750 to 1500 words. Print on only one side of each page.
3. Do not right-justify your paper.
4. Paginate your papers.
5. Observe basic rules of grammar and spelling. Proofread your paper. Ask a good writer to read and comment on your paper. I encourage use of the writing center.
6. Avoid history and bibliography.
7. You may use quotes from the readings in our books by merely noting the author and page number. For example: “‘Being’ is obviously not a real predicate” (Kant 28). You may quote your class notes, though if you wish to quote one of the philosophers we are studying, quote him or her directly. You may use my versions of the arguments we have studied, but you need not do so. Cite class notes: “Blah blah blah” (Marcus, class notes, 8/28/07). **There is no need to use other sources.** If you do use another source, you must include a proper bibliographical reference, including author, title, and publishing information, or current URL. I must be able to trace the source.
8. Violations of academic integrity, like plagiarism, can and will lead to failing grades. The Hamilton College Honor Code will be enforced. I am interested in what you have to say, but I do not expect you to generate 1500 words of original scholarship. Your main task here is to be clear about what others have said, and to present it in your own way. Sometimes, for brief passages, some one else will just say it better than you can. Quote it. Cite any ideas that are not your own. (E.g. “Aquinas argues that...”; “According to Kant,...”.) Remember to acknowledge any assistance you have had on your paper, including assistance from the writing center.

#### How to Write Your Paper

1. Pick a topic from the list below.
2. Introduce your paper by briefly stating your thesis, the conclusion you will defend. Be specific.  
Your paper should be an extended argument supporting your thesis. Often, it is easiest to write the introduction after you have finished writing the body of the paper.
3. Argue for your thesis. Each paragraph, each sentence, should directly relate to your specific thesis.
4. Consider possible objections. Do not blindly accept what any philosopher says. Argue your own point of view, but through the writings of the philosophers.
5. Conclude your essay by summarizing what you intended to say in the paper.
6. Make sure to cover each point in the topic you choose.

## Paper Topics\*

1. **Descartes's foundationalism.** What is foundationalism? How is Descartes's *Meditations* a foundationalist project? Describe the various elements of the project. What problems arise for Descartes's foundationalism? Describe Chisolm's problem of the criterion. Does Descartes's project solve the problem of the criterion?
2. **Descartes, Locke, and Berkeley on the resemblance hypothesis.** Descartes rejects the resemblance hypothesis in Meditation Two. What is this hypothesis? Why does Descartes reject it? How and why does Locke accept the resemblance hypothesis? How and why does he reject it? What is Berkeley's position on the resemblance hypothesis, and what are his arguments? Who is right? Why?
3. **Locke, Berkeley and the material world.** Locke and Berkeley disagree about the nature of the external world. Locke says that the world is material. Berkeley says that there is no such thing as material substance; all reality is mental. What exactly do they each mean? How do they support their views? Where exactly do they agree and disagree? Who is right, and why? Be careful not to create straw men.
4. **Skepticism and Moore.** What is skepticism about the external world? Describe Descartes's skeptical arguments. Is Berkeley a skeptic? Explain. How does Moore attempt to defeat skepticism? Is he successful? Consider Chisolm's criticism of skepticism, and his distinction between particularists and methodists.
5. **Moore and Wittgenstein.** What is skepticism about the external world? How does Moore attempt to defeat skepticism? How does Wittgenstein criticize Moore? How does Wittgenstein respond to the skeptic? What makes Wittgenstein's answer to the skeptic different from Moore's answer?

\* Any topics other than the ones listed here must be cleared with me *in advance*.