

**Phil. 270 – Epistemology: Assignment 6 and
Phil. 270/570: Info on Papers and Paper proposals
updated 3/23 with new due date, April 2, for paper proposals**

Assignment 6, due Friday, March 6 [that is next week; assignment 5, due this week, is available on the course web page; 6 is being given early for your planning purposes; this is only for Phil. 270 students, as 570 students have their own assignments here; but the course paper and proposal info below is for both 270 and 570]

For those who do it, assignment 6 will be the normal length: 700 – 1,050 (about 2 – 3 pages), and it is intended to be the same kind of low-stress, no-letter-grade (and not hurting your course grade, even if you're going for a straight A, so long as you get it done reasonably (with a check)), exercise as the earlier assignments, but it will be a bit different in nature, as it is intended to play a different role: helping to explore possible paper topics, rather than getting you into a course reading. You are to do one of the following:

- Describe an issue that arises in one of our readings that we have already covered that you find interesting, and may have ideas of your own about, and critically discuss it. This can (but need not) involve a paper you wrote about in an earlier exercise, and can even be (but need not be) an issue you brought up in an earlier assignment. If so, this is a chance to spend a little more space on the issue. **Or...**
- Looking ahead on our syllabus's list of readings to papers we have not yet covered, but that look interesting to you, describe and critically assess a position taken or a move made by one of our upcoming authors.

Course Papers and Paper Proposals

Paper proposal: due by the start of class on Thursday, ~~March 26~~ **April 2**

Paper: due by the start of class on Thursday, **April 23**.

Course papers must directly, substantially, and critically engage with one or more of the assigned readings for our course on issues in epistemology. Successful papers will clearly explain the issues

involved and the key argumentative moves made in the readings, and will also advance the discussion/argument in significant ways with new considerations or lines of argument of your own. In most cases, a student's best paper topic will be where she has her best idea about the material we've covered in the course. Just to give a couple of quick illustrative examples of the kind of appropriately-sized topics that could work: Good papers could, for instance, develop a way for the causal theory of knowledge to handle certain types of proposed counter-examples; or argue that rejecting the use of intuitions in philosophy need not undermine itself. Though other sources can be used (being careful to cite them correctly), that is not expected (and is not always advisable), and excellent papers can be written using only assigned readings for our class (which should also be cited). Papers are to be 2,100 - 2800 words long (about 6 – 8 pages), and are due by the start of class on Thursday, April 23, and should be submitted by email attachment to keith.derose@yale.edu .

A 350 -700 word (about 1 – 2 pages) long **paper proposal** is due by the start of class on Thursday, ~~March 26~~ April 2. This should also be turned in by e-mail attachment to the same addresses as above. It will not be given a letter grade, though the quality of the proposal can be taken into account in determining your course grade, and the course cannot be passed without completing the proposal. Its purpose, in addition to prodding some to start work on (or at least to start thinking about) their course papers, is to give us a chance to check whether your proposed topic is sufficiently relevant to our course, and in some cases to suggest additional reading you might want to consult in writing your paper. In the proposal, you should state what your topic is, what conclusion(s) you will be arguing for, the basic strategy you plan to employ in arguing for your conclusion, and what literature you will be discussing. It is expected that many papers will concern only one or two of our assigned readings, and in such cases, one fairly short sentence will cover that last item. Paper topics can be changed by submitting a new, different proposal (by the end of the day, Friday, April 17).