

3-INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

Due date Friday December 9th by 11:59PM Eastern time (at the latest), submission on Brightspace. No exam submitted via e-mail will be accepted. Late penalty will applied.

Weight 50 Marks of final grade

Length and language 2000 words minimum to 2500 words maximum in English or French. Bibliography, citations are not included in the words count.

Format Double-space, Times New Roman 12-point font in Word document only. No PDF files nor Google shared docs. Citations: APA (American Psychological Association) Style citations. 3 Marks loss for the non respect of these requirements.

Late Penalty 2.5 Marks per day.

Overview

This exam will be evaluated based on your demonstrated understanding of the material and critical engagement with it. It should reflect a balance between the material you have read and your critical responses to it. As a formal reflection of your thoughts on the material, all research papers should also have **an introduction, a development, and a conclusion**. Presentation of your arguments is very important: always pay attention to the quality of language you use in expressing your ideas. While having good ideas is a strong first step to a well constructed reflection, the ability to communicate them in a clear, concise, and precise manner is equally, if not more, important.

Be vigilant against plagiarism when using quotations in your paper: whenever you cite an author, enclose his or her words within quotation marks and give the precise location of the quotation from the original source.

The specified number of words is a guideline intended to help you evaluate the degree of details expected for an answer. Make sure to take it into account. When marking, the instructor will be looking primarily at the content and information communicated within the recommended word count; in other words, to get the maximum marks, you must efficiently communicate good information within the specified number of words. All writing must be double-spaced, legible and neat.

It is important that you give the references and sources of your information. Marks will be deducted if there are no citations / references.

Use the APA style for citations (<https://sass.uottawa.ca/sites/sass.uottawa.ca/files/awhc-apa-style.pdf>.) but be consistent.

Methodology

For this paper, students are required to use primary sources whenever possible. **Primary sources (texts posted on Brightspace)** are editions of the works of the philosopher(s) and/or school of thought whose name is included in the topic. **Students are also required to use at least two (not more than three) secondary sources, commentaries or other scholarly publications, whether books or articles that are not posted on Brightspace.** Many peer-reviewed articles are freely available on the Internet, as well as some older books that are now in the public domain. However, most are not available in this way, and in some cases, for some topics, to meet the requirement for this paper, the use of online services of a university library will be necessary.

This essay must be **2,000 words long minimum and 2500 words maximum, including the introduction, body and conclusion, but not the bibliography and citations.** Though a bibliography must be appended, which lists all the books and articles used, quoted or simply consulted for this assignment.

1-The introduction must include a clear question and a thesis with general presentation of the topic as well as an overview of the essay. If relevant, there should also be an indication of what is not covered in the essay, though relevant to the topic.

2-The body of the essay may be divided into parts. If the essay is longer than the minimum required length and has several parts, it might be a good idea to insert a table of contents after the cover page. In any event, all pages except for the cover page and the table of contents should be numbered.

3-A conclusion should also be included in which one typically recapitulates the main ideas developed in the essay. Students should consider rounding out the conclusion by offering some thoughts on the reception throughout the ages of the works discussed in the essay or on their relevance today.

The purpose of the research paper is to reproduce or re-construct the argument of a philosopher on a given topic. The student should use his or her own words as much as possible. If the words, other than the common words, used are taken *verbatim* from primary or secondary sources, then they must appear in quotation marks, and a reference must follow. Since the essay reproduces an argument, references are of crucial importance, since they act as evidence in a scholarly work.

The essay will be assessed for the most part (40 Marks) on the student's ability to identify and reconstruct a philosopher's thought, the main argument on a given topic and to articulate in a personal way, and yet intelligently and accurately, while being able to support by accurate references the reconstruction of the argument every step of the way. 5 Marks are based on grammar and spelling. Failure to meet other technical requirements such as page numbering might trigger another deduction of up to 5 Marks.

▪ Grading rubric for the Research Paper (50 Marks)

20 Marks

Technical writing:

- The structure of an academic essay is used
- There is a clear thesis
- Grammar and spelling are (mostly) correct
- Professional/academic tone is used
- Tone:
 - The tone of the essay is professional/academic but does not rely on pedantic or overly flowery language or rhetoric.
 - The writer's audience is academic, but anyone engaged in the issues will have greater clarity on the issue having read the essay.
- Citations
 - Use of APA Citations (check Library for correct style)
 - Cite sources and quotations clearly and correctly
 - Credit the author appropriately to avoid any concern or confusion of plagiarism

20 Marks

Body of Essay

- From beginning to end, I understand the argument being made/explained.
 - This is demonstrated through appropriate structure, clarity of writing, and use of primary text
- They have understood the article well enough to articulate the main issues being addressed:
 - In turn I could understand the article without having read it (although I have read the articles)
- Interest level:
 - The writer was able to raise an interesting and valuable philosophical point.
 - I as the reader have learned something having read this essay
 - I was engaged in the material and found the writing style comprehensible
 - Using the technical aspects of an essay style, I was able to convey meaning while keeping the interest of the reader
- Originality and new perspective:
 - The essay demonstrated the thesis of the article in a way that highlighted something that I may not have thought about before.

10 Marks

- Engaging with the primary texts:
 - The essay has effectively referenced and quoted the primary text (using correct citations), which has made the thesis clearer and more powerful.

▪ **Proposed Topics**

Choose one of these following topics

- 1- « Death occurs precisely when life ceases and does not occur until the heart stops beating and respiration ends. Death is not a continuous event and is an event that takes place at a precise time ». Discuss this Louis Pojman' citation.
- 2- Do you think that respect for persons, beneficence and justice are widely accepted as stipulating the requirements of ethics in research involving human beings? Justify your analysis by referring to one of these examples (The Tuskegee Syphilis study; The Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital Study or The Nazi Experiments).
- 3- Is human genetic enhancement morally permissible? Justify your analysis by referring to examples such as “the use of EPO in sport”; “cognitive enhancement”; “sexual performance”.
- 4- « AIDS has become the paradigmatic infections disease used by bioethicists in order to analyze ethical problems surrounding conflicts involving individual versus public interests». Discuss this Udo Schüklenk's statement.

COURSE READINGS

- **Lewis Vaughn, Charles Weijer, & al., *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases and Bioethics in Canada*, Oxford University Press, University of Ottawa Custom Edition, 2022. It is our major Textbook. [Available at the University of Ottawa Book store.](#)**
- Marcus Düwell, *Bioethics: Methods, Theories and Domains*, London & New York, Routledge, 2013. (Readings on Brightspace)
- Tom L. Beauchamp & James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, New York/Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013. (Readings on Brightspace)
- Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, *A Companion to Bioethics*, Oxford, Blackwell Companions to Philosophy, 2009. (Readings on Brightspace).