**Humanities 110: Introduction to Philosophy Final Project Instructions**

Elgin Community College, Fall 2023, Geoff Pynn Proposal Due Date: Wednesday, Nov. 29

Project Due Date: Wednesday, Dec. 13

Goals

1. Explain a philosophical claim using examples
2. Present an argument for the claim using concepts and theories from the course
3. Raise an objection to the claim using concepts and theories from the course
4. Respond to the objection by either rebutting it or revising the philosophical claim

Parameters

1. Your project will focus on one of the philosophical claims on the next page. (Read them carefully!)
2. You can choose the Dialogue option or the Infographic option:
   1. Dialogue: write a dialogue about the philosophical claim
      1. Must feature at least two characters
      2. Must contain at least 1200 words (not including references)
   2. Infographic: create an infographic about the philosophical claim
      1. Format options:
         1. 22x30 (or larger) physical poster
         2. Electronic file
         3. Web page
      2. Must contain at least two significant graphical elements that illustrate philosophical ideas
      3. Must contain at least 800 words of text (not including references)
3. You must submit a 1-page proposal for your project by the Wednesday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 29)
   1. I will meet with you and discuss it; your proposal must be approved
   2. If you miss class, you still must meet with me to discuss the proposal
4. You may use AI (ChatGPT etc.) as long as:
   1. You have written and created everything you submit
   2. You list any AI resources you used in your bibliography
   3. You include a one-paragraph summary of how you used AI, how it helped, and why you think it is still true to say that **you** have written and created all of the work you’re submitting
5. Final project is due in class on Dec. 13 (last day of the semester)

| **Grading Rubric** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 30/25 = Superior = meets standards in all five areas  25/25 = Satisfactory = meets Format and Content standards, plus two others  0/25 = Unsatisfactory = doesn’t meet either Format or Content standard, or fewer than four total | | | | | |
| *Area* | *Format* | *Content* | *Accuracy* | *Creativity* | *Reasoning* |
| *Standard* | Adheres to all formatting, length, and citation requirements | Meets all four goals with substantive, relevant, original work | Defines and uses key concepts accurately; contains few significant errors | Demonstrates insight, originality, cleverness, and/or skill in presentation of ideas | Arguments stated explicitly; reasons given are explained and critically evaluated |
| *Meets?* | Y / N | Y / N | Y / N | Y / N | Y / N |

Philosophical Claims

Your paper will focus on one of these claims. Each one relates to a number of issues, readings, and arguments we have discussed in class. Remember, the goals are to:

* Explain the philosophical claim using examples
* Present an argument for the claim using concepts and theories from the course
* Raise an objection to the claim using concepts and theories from the course
* Respond to the objection by either rebutting it or revising the philosophical claim

1. Virtue cannot be taught.
2. Whenever someone does something bad, it’s because they are ignorant.
3. Even if you get a worse grade, it’s still better to write your own paper than have AI do it for you.
4. If you really care about someone, you should protect them from harm at all costs.
5. Since everything we do is influenced by outside forces, we are never truly free.
6. Even though he chose to leave, Truman had more freedom inside *The Truman Show* than he will have on the outside.
7. Although we can determine natural events through our choices, our choices are not determined by natural events.
8. True freedom means never doing anything you don’t want to do.
9. Autonomy is the only thing you need to live a good life.
10. The state (government, etc.) is illegitimate and should be abolished.
11. The government should regulate public discussion of political issues in order to prevent dangerous ideas from gaining acceptance.
12. Without suffering, you can’t be truly free.
13. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
14. If someone is about to seriously harm themselves, you’re justified in preventing them from doing so.