

Summer 2015
LAW/PHI 310, Section 801
Final Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, at least ten pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, July 15th.

1. What is positivism as an approach to the philosophy of law, and who are the key thinkers in this intellectual tradition? Break down this theory of law, and use at least three additional sources in your discussion.
2. What is naturalism as an approach to the philosophy of law, and who are the key thinkers in this intellectual tradition? Break down this theory of law, and use at least three additional sources in your discussion.
3. How does Ronald Dworkin approach jurisprudence, and what does he say about interpretation? Break down this theory of law, and use at least three additional sources in your discussion.
4. What is critical race theory, and how does it challenge the commonplace that law is for the common good. Break down this radical theory of law, and use at least three additional sources in your discussion.
5. What are retributivism and utilitarianism as approaches to punishment, and what are the arguments for and against them? Break down these two theories, and use at least three additional sources in your discussion.