

Fall 2018
PHIL 1101, Section 01
Introduction to Philosophy
Review Essay Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

“How is philosophy relevant to my life?” That is a common question, and not an unfair one, as professional philosophers do not usually write with non-philosopher audiences in mind. Some do, though, and these five books illustrate how different philosophical ideas can be applied to our everyday lives:

- *The Consolations of Philosophy* by Alain de Botton (ISBN: 0679779175)
- *The Existentialist's Survival Guide: How to Live Authentically in an Inauthentic Age* by Gordon Marino (ISBN: 0062435981)
- *How to Be a Stoic: Using Ancient Philosophy to Live a Modern Life* by Massimo Pigliucci (ISBN: 1541644530)
- *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life* by Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh (ISBN: 1476777845)
- *Midlife: A Philosophical Guide* by Kieran Setiya (ISBN: 0691173931)

Your assignment is to (1) pick one of these books, (2) read it carefully and thoughtfully, and (3) write a ten-page review essay about it. The essay should summarize the book's content, but it should also include your personal reflections on that content. I want to know, in other words, what you got out of the book, and how you are going to apply it moving forward.

Your review essay is due on **Monday, December 10th**, and it must be at least ten pages in length (double-spaced). Please revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Also, I recommend that you choose the book that interests you the most, not necessarily the one that seems easiest or most accessible.

Good luck!