

Fall 2017
PHIL 1101, Section 01
Second Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, at least six 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 Monday, November 20th.

1. In the *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*, Immanuel Kant articulates a deontological approach to ethical theory. What is this approach, and how does one apply it in specific situations?
2. In *Utilitarianism*, John Stuart Mill defends a utilitarian approach (significantly revised) to ethical theory. What is this approach, and how does one apply it in specific situations?
3. Pick a moral controversy – from abortion to torture – and apply Kant and Mill to it. What would they say about this controversy, and what would their arguments look like? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. Write a dialogue – a Socratic dialogue – in which Kant and Mill critically discuss the merits of their respective ethical theories. Feel free to add yourself as one of the interlocutors. Be creative, but not at the expense of thoughtfulness.
5. In *A Discourse on Inequality*, Rousseau explains class inequality by speculating about human beings in the state of nature. What is his argument, and what do you make of it?