

Fall 2015
PHIL 2222, Section 01
First 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 Tuesday, October 6th.

1. What does William Graham Sumner argue in *Folkways*, and what are the ethical implications of his position? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
2. What does James Rachels argue in “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism,” and why does he reject relativism? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
3. What does Loretta M. Kopelman argue in “Female Circumcision/Genital Mutilation and Ethical Relativism”? Do you agree with her? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
4. Serial killer Ted Bundy explicitly appealed to ethical relativism/subjectivism to justify his crimes. What was his argument, and what is your reaction – your *philosophical* reaction – to it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
5. How is the film *Lone Star* an exploration of ethical relativism? What moments best illustrate the challenges of this theory? Use three additional sources in your discussion.