

## Final Paper, Contemporary Social and Moral Problems

Submit on Carmen

Due: 4/24 (I pushed the due date back slightly from what it is on the syllabus to give you more time)

Do not include your name or personally identifying information in your paper.

Length requirement: 3-5 pages. (times new roman font, 12 point font, normal margins etc.)

Please double space

Prompt: In this paper, you need to use ideas from course materials to make an argument, raise a compelling objection, and then make a compelling reply to this objection.

You may base your final paper on your first paper. However, if you choose to do so, I expect to see **significant** improvements between your revised draft and the final paper.

Here are some other topics you could write on. If you want to write on a topic not mentioned here, please get my approval first:

1. Using resources from Nozick or Rawls and drawing on Coates and my lectures, make an argument either for or against reparations for the descendants of victims of historical injustices.
2. Make an argument either for or against the dominance model of sexism.
3. Present either Marquis's argument for the conclusion that abortions are typically immoral, or Thomson's defense of the permissibility of abortion.

You will be graded according to the following rubric:

Overall organization of the paper: 10%

- There should be an introductory paragraph or section in which you introduce the topic and briefly explain the plan for the paper. The introduction should include a sentence that begins with "In this paper, I..." and which explicitly states the objective of the paper.
- There should be a paragraph for each important part or premise of the argument you explain, and a paragraph for the objection.
- The first sentence of each paragraph in the body of the paper should make obvious the role of the paragraph in the paper. For example, you might start a paragraph by saying "The next premise in the argument is..."

Other factors contributing to clarity: 10%

- Avoid fancy language and keep things as simple and straightforward as possible.
- If you use a technical or philosophical term, make sure you explain the meaning of the term in accessible language.
- Avoid ambiguous language and be as precise as possible.
- Aim for short declarative sentences.
- Do not include any material which is not necessary for your paper so as to avoid distracting your reader with unnecessary material

Accurate, complete, and clear statement of the argument's conclusion: 10%

- Make sure to explain important concepts in the argument's conclusion and include any necessary qualifications or caveats.

Accurate, complete, and clear statement of the argument's premises: 20%

- Make sure to explain important concepts in the argument's premises and include any necessary qualifications or caveats.
- Make sure to include all and only relevant premise.

Explanation of the premises: 20%

- You need to "sell" the premises of your argument to the reader. That is, explain to the reader why they should accept the premises of the argument. You should aim to convince as wide an audience as possible of the correctness of the premises of the argument you explain.

Clear statement of a compelling objection: 15%

- The objection should give a reason for rejecting one of the premises of the argument.
- The objection should be compelling from the perspective of someone who is initially inclined to agree with the argument.

Clear statement of a compelling reply: 15%

- The reply should be compelling from the perspective of someone who is initially inclined to agree with the objection you consider.