

PHILOSOPHY SENIOR CAPSTONE PAPER

Signature Assignment for PHI SLOs #1, 2, and 3

Course: PHI 499 Senior Synthesis Capstone

Instructor: Ronald Condon

Outcomes to be assessed:

PHI/BA/1 - Articulate the philosophical views, theories, and methods contained in the primary works of historically important philosophers.

PHI/BA/2 - Develop the requisite critical and analytical skills to evaluate the assumptions and arguments contained in philosophical works.

PHI/BA/3 - Construct logically sound arguments in oral and written form.

Assignment Description: Students will write a 15-20 page paper on a philosophical topic or issue of their choice. It is recommended that students choose a topic or issue with which they are both already familiar and interested in. Capstone papers in recent years have concerned arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the nature of the human soul, the ethics of belief, and the moral problem of abortion. The choice of a topic for the capstone paper should be made in consultation with the professor of the course.

The capstone paper is conceived to be a research paper in philosophy, but also a paper that will engage the student in critical and analytical thinking. During the course of the semester, the paper should undergo numerous drafts. Before spring break, a first draft needs to be handed into the professor of the course for initial comments, suggestions, and criticism. Subsequent drafts must take into account these initial comments, suggestions, and criticisms. A final draft of the capstone paper is due approximately two weeks before the end of the semester. This due date is determined in order to leave students time to prepare material from their capstone papers as the basis of their capstone oral presentations to the college community during the final week of the semester.

The capstone paper should be 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and formatted to conform to the MLA Style.

Evaluation Criteria: The paper will be evaluated on the following criteria.

Content: The philosophical, views, theories, arguments, and methods discussed must be articulated clearly, logically, and in a well organized manner. The student must demonstrate a good understanding of the philosophical material being discussed.

Evaluation: The student must show evidence of thoughtful, critical, and analytical evaluation of the philosophical content of the material discussed. This includes presenting carefully thought through logical criticisms of the philosophical positions and arguments considered in the paper.

Logical Argument: The student must demonstrate the ability to construct logically sound arguments in the paper. These arguments might be in support of philosophical positions discussed, or they might be objections to the views and arguments under consideration.