

CLST/PHIL 211 Essay 1

Due October 17, 2016

WORD TARGET

1,500 words.

OBJECTIVE

Write a concise essay that communicates the results of your independent investigation into a specific topic in Greek Philosophy. Your paper should:

- **State and defend a strong, clear thesis.**
- **Discuss at least one, and preferably several, primary (ancient) sources.**
- You are also encouraged to engage with the **secondary (modern) sources** posted on the “online readings” area of the course webpage and in Cooper.
- **Either select from one of the topics suggested below; or formulate an alternative topic and confirm the instructor’s approval** by email, during office hours, or by separate appointment.

TOPICS: SUGGESTED PROMPTS

A list of potential essay topics is posted online at <http://goo.gl/pK6rN>.

This list covers the full term, as well as some topics available in CLST/PHIL 212.

You are welcome to research any of these topics or develop your own subject: if you are unsure of the topic, please approach the instructor to discuss.

GUIDELINES

- A good essay will begin with a clear and appropriately narrow **thesis**. (Try to finish this sentence: “This essay will argue that..”) You may find that you need to *narrow* your thesis: for example, instead of discussing the entirety of Greek poetry, focus on one text or passage, or a single idea in a small number of passages.
- Your paper should support your thesis by means of structured **argument**. **Every point in your essay should ideally contribute something to your thesis**: try to avoid introducing unnecessary facts, ideas, or speculation.
- You should directly reference and engage with primary (ancient) sources. **To reference the textbook, you may use a citation style of your choice: for example, APA, MLA, or Chicago style, or any other, as long as you are consistent.** SEE “RESOURCES” AT SOCRATES.ARTS.UBC.CA/RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON CITATION STYLES.
- Pay close attention to your source(s)’ language, and be careful not to attack a **straw man**. If you’re arguing against a philosopher’s position, consider whether she or he actually said that. Using direct quotation (rather than loose paraphrase) can help you with this.
- In the course of your essay, you should at least briefly engage with (i.e., critically examine and potentially challenge) an **alternative view** – one that might run counter to your own.
- Always proofread your paper before submitting. If possible, go away for a few days and come back for another look. (Plato, we’re told, wrote the opening of *Republic* 10 times!)

Please submit your essay online via turnitin.com
(details on course webpage)

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Essay Evaluation Rubric

A – Outstanding	
+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, original, and appropriately narrow thesis defended by independent argument • Excellent command of primary sources • Creative, independent, and accurate interpretation • Engages critically and independently with at least one alternate interpretation of the evidence • No factual errors 	
B – Good	
+	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong command of primary sources • Clear thesis statement supported by clear argumentation • Demonstrates some ability to consider and criticize alternative interpretations • No significant errors of fact • Good writing and presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis imperfectly supported by arguments • Scope too big (or too small) for assignment • No consideration of alternative views • Minor factual slips
C – Adequate	
+	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates adequate awareness of some primary texts • Some evidence of a thesis or theory that is supported • Adequate, clear writing and presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources badly handled or clearly referenced • Little critical interpretation or engagement • Limited or confused argumentation • Some significant factual errors
D – Inadequate	
+	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to course content; awareness of sources • Readable, connected prose • Timely existence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent factual errors • Very limited awareness of sources • Sources very poorly cited or badly handled

F – Fail

Paper does not exist; it exists, but it's not yours; it is incomprehensible; it has nothing to do with course content (right paper?)