

Humanities 1

Spring 2010

Essay #2

Overview: This essay asks you demonstrate your understanding of the arguments presented in the assigned texts from Plato and Nietzsche. You will need to explain, analyze, and evaluate one or more key arguments from those texts.

Length: 3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced.

Citations: Use MLA format. When citing Plato, use the standard numbering system. When citing Nietzsche, cite section/aphorism numbers, NOT page numbers.

Topics:

1. Explain, analyze, and evaluate Nietzsche's claim (in the "Preface" to *Beyond Good and Evil*) that "Christianity is Platonism for the 'common people.'"
2. Does Socrates' *elenchus* with Meno's slave prove his theory of *anamnesis* (recollection)? Why or why not?
3. Explain, analyze, and evaluate Socrates' argument for the "Theory of Recollection" in *The Phaedo*.
4. Compare the concept of "self-overcoming" in *Beyond Good and Evil* with the role of "sublimation" in *Civilization and Its Discontents*.
5. Would Nietzsche have defended Euthyphro in any of his assertions/claims? If so, which one(s)? Why? Support your answer with evidence from *Beyond Good and Evil* and *The Euthyphro*.
6. Is the philosophical position taken in *Beyond Good and Evil* essentially nihilistic?
7. Write an essay in response to William Lane Craig's argument for the existence of God based upon the existence of objective morality. Specific directions and Craig's text can be found by going to: http://faculty.ivc.edu/sfelder/Morality_Essay.pdf or clicking on the link "Morality Essay" on the Hum 1 page.
8. Explain, analyze, and evaluate Nietzsche's analysis of "neighborly love" in *Beyond Good and Evil* 201. You may want to compare this with similar analyses in Freud and Marcuse.