

Essay #2 Topics

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

Use MLA format.

Remember to revise, revise, revise. You should rewrite your essay at least three times before submitting it.

1. Evaluate Alan Watts' appropriation and integration of the religious ideals and practices of (Hinduism?), Buddhism, and Taoism. Choose some feature of his presentation that demonstrates an especially apt and significant point of integration in these philosophies, or present some particularly problematic attempt at such integration. Support your argument with evidence from the assigned texts.
2. Write an essay in which you support the following: *The Tao Te Ching* offers a valid critique of Confucianism.
3. Write an essay in which you support the following: The Analects offer a valid critique of the Tao Te Ching.
4. Compare the concept of the "Tao" with the idea of Brahman in a way that illuminates what is distinctive about philosophical Taoism. Base your analysis on the assigned texts for this course.

You may suggest another topic as long as it compares some significant topic treated in *The Tao Te Ching* and/or *The Analects*. If you choose your own topic, I must approve it before you begin writing.

Tips:

Make sure you have narrowed down your topic to a specific question that you can answer in five pages.

Make sure the issue you raise is significant; i.e., avoid superficial and/or summary comparisons.

Present both your question and your thesis in the first paragraph.

Make sure all of your claims are supported with appropriate textual evidence.