

PHI 494 Research and Writing in Ethics
Spring 2023, North Carolina State University

Prof. William A. Bauer
Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
wabauer@ncsu.edu

The requirements stated below supplement the PHI/STS 325 syllabus, which has been provided to you, and the PHI 494 Research and Writing in Ethics departmental agreement, which you have agreed to. The syllabus for PHI/STS 325, Bio-Medical Ethics, contains multiple University and course-specific policies and standards that apply to PHI 494, including policies concerning plagiarism and integrity.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to prepare a substantive piece of writing in ethics that displays the analytical, argumentative, and research skills expected of a Philosophy major. There is no definite length requirement, but to meet all requirements the essay will likely have to be approximately 7-12 pages.

Additional Requirements

(1) If your paper primarily addresses an applied moral issue (e.g., euthanasia, animal welfare, healthcare access), as it will if you are pairing PHI 494 with PHI/STS 325, then you must include significant, detailed discussion of at least one relevant moral theory or principle (such as Utilitarianism, virtue theory, etc.). For example, this could be used in analyzing the issue, responding to an objection, etc. Whether you discuss more than one moral theory or principle depends on the thesis and structure of your paper.

(2) Topic: You must choose a topic from those covered in the syllabus (see the syllabus for PHI/STS 325), or some other topic in consultation with the instructor.

(3) You must also include a significant discussion of at least two academic philosophy journal articles or scholarly book chapters. At least one of these must be a scholarly source, which you identify and obtain, from outside the list of assigned readings in PHI/STS 325 (see the course syllabus). These sources can be integrated in many different ways (as part of the main argument, as an objection, etc.). You will likely use more than two scholarly sources in order to prepare a compelling essay.

(4) You *must* submit one draft of your paper prior to the final version, and the final version must take into account the feedback on the draft provided by the instructor. Before the first draft, you *must* also send a brief outline (1/2 to 1 page) of your project. You are encouraged to consult with the instructor often, either by email or during office hours, throughout the process.

(5) You must rigorously cite your sources and include a bibliography, using either the MLA or Chicago Manual style.

Due dates

You must submit all work electronically (preferably as a Word document, though PDF is acceptable), except the final version of the paper, which must be submitted both electronically and in hard copy. For the draft and outline, the instructor will aim to provide feedback approximately within a week after it is submitted.

Outline due: at least three weeks before the first draft is due (see below).

First draft due: at least three weeks before the final paper is due (preferably sooner, so that a second draft can be given feedback, if necessary, before the final paper is due). The draft need not be entirely complete; but it should be substantial and clearly show the direction and main argument of the paper.

Final paper due: on the first official day of the final exam period, **April 27, NLT 5 p.m.**

Important note: The above due dates are deadlines, but it is expected that you will be making good progress throughout the term, thinking about and putting effort into your project at every reasonable opportunity, seeking feedback, and generally showing the skills and dedication to scholarship expected of a Philosophy major.

Assessment and guidance

The major criteria are (i) clarity and insight of the thesis, (ii) clarity and precision of supporting explanations and arguments, (iii) depth of discussion, (iv) rational sensitivity to objections and counter-views, and (v) originality.