

25 points

## PHL 103 – Introduction to Philosophy

### Paper Assignment 2 – Compare

#### *Instructions*

In this second paper you must select two philosophical arguments we have examined so far in class and compare them. (You may not use the one you selected for paper 1 as one of them.) You will pick two arguments that address a similar philosophical concern and compare how they address this concern and what conclusion they reach regarding this concern. Being able to compare how two authors address a similar concern and identify various elements of two arguments is a useful skill, both in a philosophy class, and in professional life in general.

First, identify which authors and arguments you will be comparing in your paper. Introduce the philosophers, the arguments, what philosophical concern these arguments are addressing, and the manners with which the issue is addressed. Also, mention, briefly, why you have chosen these particular arguments in terms of their relevance to your personal, social, or faith life (or some contemporary issue) and in terms of some connection you see between the issue addressed in these arguments and how it is addressed in some other discipline.

Next, address more specifically the philosophical concern being addressed by these arguments and the manners in which they are addressed. Do a side – by – side comparison. By that I mean within the same paragraph address both arguments. Select two other points of comparison to use in your paper. These might include: assumptions each philosopher uses, type of reasoning used in the argument, tone of presentation, historical context, different specific aspects of argumentation, or anything else you might see as relevant. Do a side – by – side comparison using these two points of comparison. Compare the conclusions reached by each argument. Discuss how they are similar or different in the solution, resolution, etc. they provide for the philosophical concern they address. What type of action, thought, behavior, habit, etc. does each call for in response to the philosophical concern?

Please note: you are not making any judgment calls here. The goal is not (yet) to say one or the other is more effective, convincing, fun, challenging, etc. For this assignment, you are simply required to discuss the characteristics of the two arguments in a side – by – side comparison.

Lastly, reflect on how the philosophical arguments you are comparing address some question in comparison to how that question (or one similar or related) is addressed in other disciplines. How do these different approaches to addressing a similar question compare? How do they inform or critique one another? What is the value of looking at the question from multiple disciplinary perspectives? Reflect also on how the question addressed by the compared philosophical arguments has relevance to some issue you face in your personal, social or faith life (or to some issue in contemporary culture or the news). How would the philosophical position inform your consideration of this issue? What (if any) would the value be in applying this perspective to your consideration of the issue?

A rubric will be used to assess your paper's performance across dimensions of language use, ability to accurately represent and compare philosophical arguments, establishing comparisons to the approaches of other disciplines, and discussing relevance to issues in your life. All references to the text must be accompanied by correct parenthetical citation. Your paper must be presented in a 12-point Times New Roman or similar font with standard margins and no greater than double spacing. The length of this paper is 3-5 pages. This paper is worth a potential 25 points.