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INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY: TERM PAPER

The textbook, and this class, has typically presented different philosophical theories, given reasons to accept the theory and then given some difficulties the theory has. We have been studying how theories have been defended and how they have been criticized.

Many students are not used to this approach to learning. Some students feel unsatisfied and want answers but are only left with more questions.

Even philosophers know, in the end, some decision needs to be made. We know the strengths and weaknesses of the theories, but we still want to say what we think are the correct—or at least better—theories.

Your task, in this term paper is to choose one of the theories we studied in class and to give that theory your best defense. Defend the theory of your choice against the difficulties against it.

Do not merely review the strengths of the theory, but attempt to persuade the world why the theory is right.

Choose one of the topics below and write the most complete philosophical defense of the position that you can.

- The essay is to be a minimum of 1000 words in length, typed, and double-spaced. Use standard formatting like MLA or APA.
- Use a standard serif-font (Times New Roman, Palatino, New York) with a font size of 12.

- Top and bottom margins should be 1". Left and right margins should be 1.25".
 - The essay should be argumentative (not descriptive or expository).
 - If you use sources, all sources must be cited in the essay and a bibliography must be provided.
 - Due Date: July 12, 2017
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Topics:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rationalism | 15. Functionalism |
| 2. Empiricism | 16. Eliminative Materialism |
| 3. Hard Determinism | 17. Ontological Argument |
| 4. Indeterminism | 18. Cosmological Argument |
| 5. Libertarianism | 19. Teleological Argument |
| 6. Compatibilism | 20. Pascal's Wager |
| 7. Deep-Self Compatibilism | 21. Defend one Theodicy |
| 8. Illusion Theory | 22. Intelligent Design |
| 9. Body Theory | 23. Ethical Relativism |
| 10. Soul Theory | 24. Divine Command Theory |
| 11. Memory Theory | 25. Utilitarianism |
| 12. Behaviorism | 26. Deontology |
| 13. Type-Type Identity Theory | 27. Virtue Ethics |
| 14. Token-Token Identity Theory | |



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