

Mini Paper 8

Instructions: this assignment should be **printed out** and turned in **in class** on **October 31**. This paper should be under a page. I like to grade as anonymously as possible, so please **do not put your name on the top of the paper, but instead put it on the opposite side of the page (or on a second page, if you can't print double-sided)**. If you have any questions about how to complete the assignment, please let me know.

There are various movies that involve massive deception. They include:

- Abran Los Ojos (Open Your Eyes) (1997) remade as Vanilla Sky (2001)
- eXistenZ (1999)
- Inception (2010)
- The Matrix (1999)
- Total Recall (1990) remade (2012)
- The Truman Show (1998)

I would like you to pick one of these movies and answer the question: could you currently be experiencing the same kind of massive deception that is described in this movie? Why or why not?

Just in case you've never seen any of these, I will be screening Inception on Tuesday October 28 in DeBartolo 140 at 7:30 PM. You're welcome to attend this screening if you'd like, but there's no requirement that you do so.

Some suggestions about writing this mini-paper (these hold for philosophy papers in general):

- When writing these papers, it is always better to examine one set of issues in great detail, considering objections and replies, then to examine a number of issues in not very much detail at all.

- When formulating objections, you want to make them as persuasive as possible. If you feel like your objection is super-easy to get around and that it wouldn't really convince anyone, then you should try to think of an objection that's more persuasive. The same thing holds for the responses.
- I asked you what you think, but because this is a philosophy paper I want you to try to defend your view by appealing to reasons. That is, your goal is not merely to tell me why you think what you do, but also to convince me that you're right.