

Reflection Paper 2

Instructions: this assignment should be **printed out** and turned in **in class** on **April 29**. If possible, you should staple all of this half of the semester's reflections to it, along with your opening survey. This paper should be a page or two and will be graded pass/fail and worth 2 percent of your grade. If you do excellent work on it, I will give you some extra points. If you can't make it to class that day, leave your paper in my box in the philosophy department lounge (117 Malloy). If you have any questions about how to complete the assignment, please let me know.

Your paper should address the following three questions:

1. At the beginning of the semester I had you fill out a survey regarding the various questions we were planning on talking about in class. Have your thoughts on the various questions changed – either your particular views or your reasons for holding them? If so, how and why? If not, why not?
2. The big assignment for this half of the semester has been the final paper. I'd like to know what you think you've done well and poorly regarding your final paper so far and what your plans are for your final paper going forwards. I also asked you a couple of reflection questions about your final paper (see below; they're A and D). I'd like to know how accurate you think your answers to those were.
3. We spent most of the class talking about particular moral questions and not a huge amount of time stepping back and asking what we were doing. So I'm curious to hear what you think about (i) what people engaged in talking about morality are up to and (ii) how best to go about talking about morality. There's a lot to talk about here, so don't feel the need to be complete. *Note: if you're struggling, here are some questions to help you get a grip on (i): (a) Are the truths of moral claims relative to society? (b) Is there any moral knowledge? (c) Are there any true general moral principles? I've posted some (totally optional) readings on each of these questions on the calendar for 4/29*

– each is very short – in case you want someone to respond to. Also, there are also a couple of reflection papers relevant to (ii) – see below; they’re B and C.

I’ve copied the various reflection questions I asked, just in case that will be helpful for you.

- (A) Most of the written work for the rest of the semester will be writing the final paper. Have you started thinking about what topic you’ll be writing about? Have you thought about when you’ll have time over the semester and how you work and planned out when to get the various bits done?
- (B) In this half of the semester were focusing on moral questions related to identity including race, gender, and sexual orientation. Do you think your own identity has affected or will affect how you answer these questions? If so, how? If not, why not? (The upcoming questions we’ll be discussing are about homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and prostitution).
- (C) Are there any topics that would be inappropriate to discuss in a class like this? If so, what sorts and why?
- (D) What things have you done well on your rough draft? What do you anticipate the main critical comments being?