

# PAPER TOPICS & GUIDELINES

Select from the following topics. You must read and utilize the relevant supplemental reference materials posted on my website.

## 1. Social Justice:

- Review the document posted on my website [“Disparities in Healthcare”](#).
- Formulate a method for eliminating these disparities using Rawls.
  - For example, discuss the public option initially proposed in the health insurance reform bills. (This might require investigation on your own part. Stay away from Fox News and Drudge Report as sources!!!!)
- Reply to Rawls utilizing the readings on Libertarianism, particularly Hospers.

## Required Additional Reading:

*Everything* under “Healthcare Issues” on the [Social Justice](#) page of my website with the exception of “Cancer Drug Pricing”.

## Tertiary readings that are strongly recommended but not required:

[Politicians Lie, Numbers Don't](#)

[Economic Inequality in America](#)

[Income inequality at all time high](#)

[Wages](#)

[Watching the Economy Crumble](#)

[Living Wages](#)

[I am a Racist](#)

[The Poverty Business](#)

## 2. Abortion:

Consider the case of Bristol Palin; read [“Do As We Do”](#).

- Analyze abortion from the perspectives of social justice as well as those we discussed in class.
- Discuss the consequences of all three options available, at least theoretically, to Bristol Palin—abortion (first trimester), adoption, keeping it.
- Given that she actually kept the baby, pay attention to and discuss the ways in which Bristol Palin is alike and dislike the general population and the statistical averages.

### Required Additional Reading:

“The Morality of Abortion” by Margaret Olivia Little in the textbook.

[The Visible Embryo](#)

["Notification laws may not be reducing abortions"](#)

[“Low-income Kids Report First Sexual Intercourse At 12 Years Of Age In New National Study”](#)

["Child Protection and Child Outcomes: Measuring the Effects of Foster Care" \(UAB Domain Only\)](#)

[Adoptions Statistics: “The AFCARS Report”](#)

[Deficit in brains of children in poverty](#)

[Outcomes of Virginity Pledges](#)

### **3. Pornography:**

Consider the following case:

“Since starting College Invasion we have been flooded with requests for our porn stars to come and party at schools all around the world. This time a Canadian College claimed they could out party any school in the US. We wanted them to prove it! So we headed north and Randi, Kaylie & Jayna got the party started right! They held a snow pie fucking contest and the winner got to slip his cock inside of Jayna. Which led to our first college porn fuck orgy! This is when the party really started heating up and real college porn girl "spectators" decided to join in on the action. Soon after Angelina [college student] took two dicks at once and wanted more. After a few more keg stands Jerry took on Randi and Jayna at the same time. Our girls sure knew how to show these guys how girls from Cali fuck!”

Was it moral for the Canadian college fraternity and sorority to participate? Analyze this case from the perspectives of production and presentation of the pornography.

#### **Required Additional Reading:**

Everything under Empirical Reference Materials and Readings on the website

Recommended but not required reading: “A Feminist Defense of Pornography” by Wendy McElroy which is a survey of the various feminist philosophers’ moral positions.

# GUIDELINES

## Grading Guidelines

You will be graded based upon the following four categories:

- Mechanics (spelling, punctuation, proper citations, etc.): *5 points*
- Usage (grammar): *5 points*
- Composition (structure, transitions, organization): *5 points*
- Argument Quality: *85 points*

Keep these in mind when writing the essay on each test.

## Formatting Guidelines

*Failure to follow these guidelines will result in refusal of and/or no credit for the paper. One letter grade deduction for each day late; any paper more than 3 days late will not be accepted and 0 score will be recorded.*

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman or Cambria fonts only, 12 point font size, pages numbered, *stapled*, **MLA style citations** (internal citations, Works Cited page), standard one inch default margins on all sides with a Header and Footer size of 0.5 inches.

## Content Guidelines

You are *not* to present your opinion. This paper is not an opinion piece or a statement of your personal beliefs. You are to analyze and discuss the case study provided. Take a position and defend it, which could include "It is not clear what the morally appropriate course of action is in this case." However, there are clear morally impermissible courses of action in some cases. To reiterate, *you are not to state your personal opinion*. This is an objective, argumentative writing assignment not an editorial. Writing an opinion paper will result in automatic failure.

No internet sources are allowed unless I provided them; doing so results in automatic zero credit. *You may only use course materials. You must use the additional materials posted on my website as listed above, at minimum.*

Definitions from Webster and Webster-like dictionaries are forbidden.

Review fallacies discussed at the beginning of semester. You must point out these fallacies if they occur in arguments presented by any author.

In the disagreement(s), identify what kind of disagreement(s) is involved; that is, a disagreement between facts, judgments, or opinions. Identify, based upon the type of disagreement (there may be more than one involved), what kind of resolution is possible.

Other key issues discussed throughout the course must be addressed where appropriate; for example, who comprises the moral community and on what grounds? In many cases, concepts used on one issue are applicable to other issues.

Again: Refrain from presenting your personal views. The point of the paper is to demonstrate comprehension and application of the course material not to defend your personal viewpoints.

## Warnings to the Wise

I do not accept papers via e-mail or IM.

Do not say “feel” when you mean “believe” or “opine”. “Feel” refers to sensations such as feeling cold or emotions, not cognitive dispositions.

Do not make abstract religious claims such as, “Man was made in the image of God,” “Life is sacred,” or “Marriage is a sacred institution”. No matter the claim (religious or not), you must be able to explain its meaning.

Excessive grammatical mistakes will result in failure. *Please consult with the Writing Center.*

Egregious factual inaccuracies will result in failure.

Refrain from statements such as “Abortion is a controversial topic”; “Consensus on the moral status of euthanasia will never be reached”; “It is up to each individual person to decide...” (such a claim is ambiguous and is dreadfully close to a subjective ethic); avoid biographical information about an author unless it is directly relevant to the issue.

*Most of these notifications do not apply as long as you follow the prohibition of refraining from stating your personal views.*

**NOTE:** If quality of work on a paper(s) is unusually superior to the quality of work on tests, I reserve the right to singularly compute your grade based upon the tests.

## Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as the following:

- using the exact words of another person’s work/writing without acknowledgment of your source through the use of quotation marks *and* correct citation/documentation;
- to claim as one’s own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism.
- rephrasing a passage by another writer without giving proper credit;

- using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement;
- using a piece of writing for one course that was already used in a previous course (or in courses in which you are simultaneously enrolled) without express permission from both instructors to do so; and
- presenting fabricated or falsified citations or materials.

Please consult with the instructor of this course if you are unsure about how to document sources.

Cheating on exams is also an affront to the principle of academic honesty. At the very least, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e., a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. A plagiarist/cheater is also subject to failure in the course and/or appearance before the Justice Council.

(Approved by Faculty Senate, Spring 2000)

***Plagiarism will result, at minimum, in no credit on the assignment if not failure for the course. At maximum, you could be expelled from the university.***

## **Due Date**

***The paper is due on the final class meeting.***