

Philosophy of Technology: Final Paper

Outline

Format and Submission

- Due: Thursday 22 April, 11:59pm Shanghai time.
- Late penalty: One grade point per day.
- Length: 1-2 pages.
- Submission:
 - Files must include your full name and NetID.
 - Files must be formatted as PDF.
 - Files must be named as follows: <netid>outline.pdf (so for example bw68outline.pdf for NetID bw68). Files may be submitted by drag and drop through the course website, or by sending as an attachment to the email address: ug.kthkdoo430fuahow@u.box.com

Guidelines

- Your outline should state either the central thesis of your paper, or the central question to which it is addressed.
- If your paper will draw on sources in addition to those assigned in class, you must give a full citation to these sources and a brief summary, for each source, of why it is relevant to your central thesis or question.
- If your paper will not draw on sources in addition to those assigned in class, you must describe the overall structure of your paper.

Paper

Format and Submission

- Due: Thursday 13 May, 11:59pm Shanghai time.
- Late penalty: One grade point per day.
- Length: 2500-3000 words.
- Submission:

- Files must include your full name and NetID.
- Files must be formatted as PDF.
- Files must be named as follows: <netid>paper.pdf (so for example bw68paper.pdf for NetID bw68). Files may be submitted by drag and drop through the course website, or by sending as an attachment to the email address: ug.kthkdoo430fuahow@u.box.com

Guidelines

Introduction

- Your introduction should be as clear and concise as possible.
- Your introduction should clearly state the aim of your paper:
 - Make it obvious to the reader what your main thesis is.
 - Make it obvious to the reader what strategy you will employ to argue for that thesis.

Exposition

- Present other philosophers' views accurately and charitably.
- Focus on the aspects of the view relevant to the argument you will be developing.
- Explain any terms or concepts that someone who does not know any philosophy would not understand.
- Provide textual evidence for your interpretations of the sources you cite, especially if they are potentially contestable.
- Present the views of your sources as a coherent whole rather than as a list of theses. That is, show how the parts of those views fit together.
- If you will be arguing against the view of one of your sources, clearly outline the relevant arguments for those aspects of the view that you will be criticising or amending.

Evaluation

- Illustrate your claims with good examples. It is better to use your own example rather than an example from your sources, if you can think of one.
- Provide arguments for your claims.
- Formulate your arguments in as clear and well organised a manner as possible. If you prefer and are capable of doing so, you may formalise your arguments.

General Guidelines

- Make the structure of your paper clear. It should be clear to the reader what parts of your paper are expository, and what parts are your own positive contribution. Signposts recapping what you have done so far and what you will now do are very helpful aids here.
- Use block-quotation as a last resort. When you do use quotation, justify it by demonstrating how it is relevant, or by using it to argue for an interpretation. Generally speaking, paraphrase is a much better way to show that you have understood the material under discussion.
- Your prose should be simple, concise, easy to read, and easy to understand. The best way to achieve this is by revising your paper with this in mind—it is rare that you will express yourself most clearly on your first try.
- Finally, the litmus test for your paper is that it should be capable of being completely understood by your intelligent friends. Give them your paper, have them read it once, and then quiz them to see if they have learned anything. If they haven't, then we will find it hard to assess whether you have.