

First Exam & Analytical Papers

**PHIL 101
Self, World, & God
Lecture Seventeen**

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Reality Check

- **Have I done the assigned reading?**
- **Have I attended the lectures?**
 - **Or accessed the video-lectures?**
- **Did I attend the Group Study session?**
- **Did I ask questions about material?**
- **Did I access notes, reading, PowerPoint slides in composing my answers?**
- **Have I invested eight to twelve hours per week outside of class?**

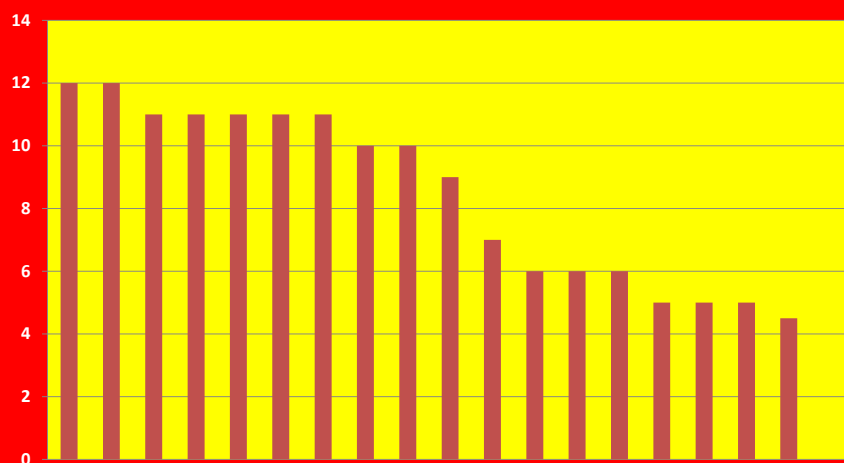
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How I Grade Exams

- One question at a time
- Whole number/letter grades
 - 4 A
 - 3 B
 - 2 C
 - 1 D
 - 0 F
- Total divided by 3 gives exam grade
- Grade distribution

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Midterm Grade Distribution



Feedback Folder

- **My podcasts**
- **Examples from your peers**
- **My deal:**
 - Answer the reality check questions
 - Review the examples and podcasts
 - Write a thoughtful self-evaluation of your exam
 - I will raise your first grade to a 4.5 on the exam, a C-
 - For those of you above 4.5, I will raise you total exam grade by 1
 - Self evaluations are due by next Monday

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What To Expect

- **Next take-home exam**
- **Four questions, you answer three**
- **Same word count**
- **Question on last week's material**
- **Question on this week's material**
- **Question on next week's material**
- **Fourth question as yet undetermined**

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Writing Analytical Papers

- **Writing is hard!**
- **Have a thesis**
- **Have an audience in mind**
 - Student disadvantage
 - Assume the voice of the teacher
- **Have an outline**
- **Write in sections**
- **Write in drafts**
- **Use resources**
 - Peer review
 - Writing Center

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Global Warming Paper

Al Gore presents an extended argument in the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* that global warming is occurring, and that contemporary human culture and technology is contributing to it in a significant way. Assess the quality of his evidence for these claims. He goes further and suggests that global warming is not only a scientific problem, but what he calls a *moral* problem. Critically assess this claim as well.

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Global Warming Outline

- **Very short introduction**
- **Section One – Gore’s evidence (schematize) his argument**
- **Section Two – Rival Explanations**
- **Section Three – Your considered ranking**
- **Section Four – Final (explicit) evaluation of his evidence**
- **Section Five – Your analysis of his moral claim**

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Death Penalty Paper

Johnson makes an extended argument that capital punishment, as it is currently administered, violates the United States Constitution. His argument depends on an interpretation of the constitutional text, as well as constitutional precedent. It also depends on some contemporary facts about the death penalty such as the amazing discretion of District Attorneys on how to prosecute homicides, and the apparent racial correlation in death penalty prosecutions. Explain and critically assess Johnson’s argument.

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Death Penalty Outline

- **Very short introduction**
- **Section One – Johnson’s argument for his interpretation of the Constitution**
- **Section Two – Johnson’s argument that capital punishment remain “arbitrary and capricious”**
- **Section Three – Johnson’s argument that capital punishment remains racially biased**
- **Section Four – You reasoned assessment of Johnson’s argument**

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A Thin Blue Line

- **Errol Morris**
- **“Travels with Doctor Death”**
- **First plan for the movie**
- **How it got changed**
- **Why it’s a death penalty movie**
- **We will discuss the ending tomorrow**

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