Formal Response 2: Lucretius

PHIL 1012

Spring 2025

**Due April 19 at midnight** (by 8:00am April 21 is okay too)

Over the past several weeks, we have been reading *On the Nature of Things* by Lucretius (c. 99-55 B.C.E.). More than any philosopher we’ve read so far, Lucretius in one text tries to give us the big picture of the universe. We also know that his book was rediscovered in 1417 C.E. by an Italian monk named Poggio Bracciolini, and that discovery had a marked effect on modernity and the coming scientific age. Lucretius is not always “correct” from a contemporary scientific perspective, but he is much closer to a modern one.

Formal response 2 asks you do to relay Lucretius’s thought in comparison to your own on three separate issues: metaphysics, embodiment (including gender), human nature, and ethics. With **specific textual support in MLA format**, support your reading of Lucretius and compare his thought to your own perspective on each category. For example, what’s his view on human nature? In comparison to yours? Lucretius is an Epicurean philosopher and gives us a lot of implied ethics (how to live practically), but how does that compare with your own?