

Midterm Philosophical Dialogue Assignment

As we have discussed in class, your midterm will be to write a philosophical dialogue between two to three discussants (no more than three!). Please remember that your task here is not to write a comedic sketch or parody but a serious philosophical dialogue, so while your characters may be fictional or historical, they may not be simply cartoonish figures “shooting the crap” as a setting for making jokes. You are encouraged to make up your own characters.

First, you need to pick a clear theme from lectures, readings, or class discussion for focus on in your dialogue. You may also want to consider contemporary ethical or social issues: gender, race, religion, death and afterlife of consciousness, metaphysics, perception, etc. Second, you will need some overt discussion in your characters about at least three identifiable branches of philosophy discussed in class: metaphysics, ontology, epistemology, logic, ethics, aesthetics, etc. Just show through the characters that you know the definitions of the branches and work in into their dialogue somehow.

The dialogue between your characters needs to evidence your own reflections on our readings this term (Plato and the Eastern texts, etc.). Use plenty of **direct quotations** evidencing your knowledge of the readings here (MLA, APA, or Chicago format).

There should be three clear sections:

1. An Introduction with “dramatis personae” explaining the setting, context and background to the characters. (200-400 words)
2. The dialogue itself (2000-2500 words)
3. A meta-reflection: In 500 words, do a meta-reflection on your story where you explain your writerly choices. This is the place to include any specific research sources you may have drawn on to develop your story. Tell us what drew you to your theme and why you chose this way of expressing your thoughts with these specific characters.