

Formal Reading Response Assignment 1
PHIL 1012

Due: September 20 by midnight, emailed to Roger.Green@ucdenver.edu

Length: 700 words, minimum. 1000 words maximum.

All reading responses need to be turned in through the above email and in MLA format. I expect direct quotations from all texts we have read so far in your response.

Task:

For reading response 1, **compare and contrast** the metaphysical and ethical differences between the Asian philosophies we opened class with and the Platonic dialogues we have begun reading. What is similar? What is different?

Remember, metaphysics relates to the nature of reality and the cosmos. Ethics relates to the appropriate action in relation to one's metaphysical descriptions of the world, the universe, etc.

Style and Form:

Your response should be written for a *wider audience* than our class. Introduce texts without assuming your readers know them or have read them. Your response should paraphrase and summarize the content of each reading with brief citations, providing textual support in MLA format. It often helps to present a *theme* you noticed in the text and engage with critical readings we cover in class or that you research on your own.

While it's okay to write in first-person, you should not narrate your reading with self-referential phrases like "as I was reading, I was reminded of..." or "I was confused when..." or say how enlightening it was for you – how you'd "never thought of that before," etc. Instead, your criticism should be professionally discursive (and civil). Disagreements are fine. Long, accusatory diatribes are not okay. By "professionally discursive," I mean it should engage with the material we are reading in class and seek to further critical discussions we have been having in class. Responses should illustrate that you have read, engaged with, and tried to understand the text to the best of your abilities. A good way to do this is to employ specific analytical terms that come up in class in your response.