



PHIL 101

Self, World, & God

Winter Quarter 2007

Movie Prompts

You are required to watch at least seven movies this quarter, and to submit a portfolio of seven short (1-2 pages is fine) movie papers. The portfolio should be submitted when you have completed the seven papers.

The Matrix

At one level *The Matrix* is simply a silly, gratuitously violent action flick. But at another level it is a surprisingly profound exploration of some of the central themes in Descartes' *Meditations*. Explain how the movie links up with those themes.

Reversal of Fortune

Use the technique of inference to the best explanation to justify your assessment of whether Claus was guilty of trying to murder Sunny.

An Inconvenient Truth

Use the technique of inference to the best explanation to justify your assessment of the scope and dangers of global warming.

Rope

Clarence Darrow argued in the real Leopold and Loeb case that the boys should not receive the death penalty because their actions were caused, and therefore they were not truly responsible. In light of our discussion of free will, what do you think of this argument?

Inherit the Wind

What should be taught in the public schools regarding evolution and “intelligent design?”

Regarding Henry

What changed in Henry after the gunshot? His mind? His Brain? Defend a position of the mind/body problem based on Henry’s story.

Schindler’s List

Discuss this powerful movie in terms of the problem of evil.

Freaky Friday

If we were to take this silly little comedy philosophically seriously, Anna came to inhabit her mother’s body. What made Anna the same person after the switch as the teenage high-schooler we met at the beginning of the movie?

Three Faces of Eve

There once was a little girl who had a very traumatic experience at her grandmother’s funeral. There was a nice young woman named Jane who seems to have emerged from therapy completely “cured.” Were they the *same* people? What about that odd stage where Eve White and Eve Black were on the scene?