



PHIL 101

Self, World, & God

Winter Quarter 2008

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.

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.

Awakenings

Does what happened to Dr. Sayre's patients have anything to teach us about ourselves and our minds? Defend your answer.

Inherit the Wind

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

Three Faces of Eve

Do you think "multiple personality," or dissociate identity disorder is possible? Were there three people, or just one in the young woman's body.

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, did Tess and Anna "switch bodies"? What makes a person the same person over time?

Volver

We showed the film as part of the celebration of International Women's Week. Discuss whether this was an appropriate choice

A Midnight Clear

The soldiers were engaged in what is called a prisoner's dilemma. What do you think a "prisoner's dilemma" is? What did you think about the soldier's strategy for getting out of it?