



**PHIL 107**  
**Winter 2007**

**Self, World,  
& God**

## Analytical Paper

- 30% of course grade!
- 1200 to 1800 words
- Formal writing
- The Writing Lab
- **Required** peer review, Monday February 25
- Papers are due Thursday, March 6
- How do I write an analytical paper?

## Paper Assignment

What is the best explanation of the remarkable structure, order and purpose we see in this world? Critically analyze the debate between the natural theologian's explanation, and the secular naturalist's account. Who do you believe offers the soundest evidence? Justify your answer.

## Structure of the Paper

- Three major sections
- (Natural) Theism
  - Explain the position
  - Cleanthes as one example
  - “New teleological argument”
- Secular naturalism
  - Explain the position
  - Philo as an example
  - Darwin as an example
  - Johnson as an example
- Your analysis
  - Defend, don't just state

## Advice to Student Writers

- Don't write for your professor
- Intelligent, college-educated reader
- Knows little, if anything, about your specific topic
- You assume the voice of authority
- Teach your reader
  - Don't talk down, but assume your reader needs to learn from you
  - Explain everything

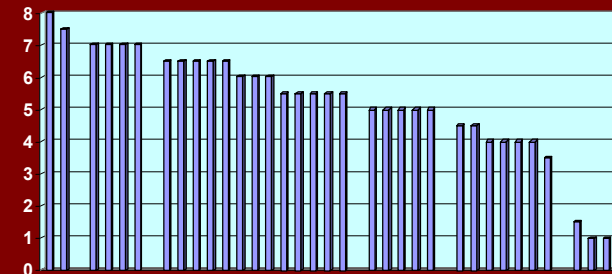
## Mid-term

- Challenging
- Any surprises?
- Reality check
  - Reading
  - Attending lectures
  - Study
  - Group study sessions
  - Practice answers

## My Idiosyncratic Grading

- Blind reading
- One question at a time
- Holistic evaluation
- Crude distinctions
  - Superstar – 4 points
  - Good job – 3 points
  - Adequate job – 2 points
  - Weak – 1 point
- Dividing lines
- My prejudice about the median

PHIL 101 W 08 1st Exam



## Question One

Explain Descartes' three skeptical arguments. Do they succeed in showing that we actually know nothing whatsoever? Why does Johnson suggest that Descartes' whole approach indicates the need for a more realistic definition of knowledge?

## Question One

- Three skeptical arguments
  - Unreliability of the senses
  - Dream hypothesis
  - Evil genius
- Certainty and indubitability
- Total skepticism?
  - *Cogito ergo sum*
  - Anything else?
- Standard analysis of knowledge
- Descartes' standard for "justified" belief
- Johnson's standard for "justified" belief
- Your assessment

## Question Two

Use the method of inference to the best explanation to critically assess Johnson's claim that race is a causally relevant factor in who receives the death penalty. Does this show that capital punishment violates the Constitution?

## Question Two

- e<sub>1</sub>. Georgia homicides 1974-9
- e<sub>2</sub>. Murderers of white victims -- 108 of 981 received the death penalty
- e<sub>3</sub>. Murderers of black victims -- 20 of 1503 received the death penalty
- =====
- t<sub>0</sub>. Statistically significant correlation between the race of the victim and death sentence for murderer
- =====
- t\*<sub>0</sub>. Race of victim is causally relevant to who receives the death penalty

For me this shows that capital punishment violates both the Equal Protection Clause and the Eighth Amendment.

### Question Three

Quite by accident I discovered a glitch in the ipod software. On Saturday my wife and I went to a banquet for the League of Oregon cities. The entertainment was *Pink Martini*, a Portland band I like a lot. I had already planned that I was going to ask for two songs when they came back for an encore – “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera.” As it turned out they did “Que Sera Sera” as part of their concert, and there was no chance to ask when they did their encore. On Sunday as we drove back from Portland I plugged in my ipod to listen to them again. I set the settings to “All” and to “Shuffle Songs.” This meant that my ipod searched through both of their albums, found all 36 songs and played them in “random” order. That’s the glitch! The last two songs were “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera.” The exact encore I had imagined the night before! What are the odds of this? My theory is that these two songs came up last, not randomly, but because of all the *Pink Martini* songs, I listen to these two the most often. I am thinking of writing to Apple to tell them about the problem.

### SCHEMATIZING THE ARGUMENT

- e<sub>1</sub>. Details of concert.
- e<sub>2</sub>. Imagined encore.
- e<sub>3</sub>. Setting the ipod on Sunday.
- e<sub>4</sub>. Last two songs in the shuffled play.
- e<sub>5</sub>. “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera” most often played.

- =====
- t<sub>0</sub>. Glitch in ipod program – not “random” play.

### RIVAL EXPLANATIONS



- t<sub>1</sub>. Just a coincidence
- t<sub>2</sub>. Colleen played a joke
- t<sub>3</sub>. Parapsychological account
- t<sub>4</sub>. No glitch – designed to do this
- t<sub>5</sub>. Jeff’s perceptual inadequacies.
- t<sub>6</sub>. Ipod malfunction

### My Rank Order



- t<sub>1</sub>. Just a coincidence  
 $2 \times (1/36 \times 1/35) = .0016$
- t<sub>0</sub>. Glitch in ipod program – not “random” play.
- t<sub>6</sub>. Ipod malfunction
- t<sub>4</sub>. No glitch – designed to do this
- t<sub>2</sub>. Colleen played a joke
- t<sub>5</sub>. Jeff’s perceptual inadequacies.
- t<sub>3</sub>. Parapsychological account

**ASSESSMENT OF  
THE QUALITY OF THE  
EVIDENCE**



Since there is a better explanation of the songs appearing in that order, Jeff's evidence is very weak.