

Method of grading and Grading Legend for Philosophy 154E (001)

Though I have included a comment wherever it is necessary I have, for the most part, inserted numbers instead of comments, and these have been indexed to certain general comments below.

Two general considerations have informed the grade I have assigned your paper: (1) How well have you followed the instructions for writing a paper included with the topics for this assignment, and (2) the comments I have included in response to your paper.

When supplying comments in your paper I have had several questions in mind: (1) Are your sentences clear, grammatical or unambiguous? (2) Have you accurately described the philosophical position, or teaching, you are evaluating? (3) Have you been fair to your 'opponent' or 'interlocutor'? (4) Have you *adequately* defended the claims you have made in the paper? (5) Do you give appropriate credit to the sources of your ideas or arguments?

As is my custom, I have included a grade at the end of the paper.

Grading Legend:

(1) Take greater care not to beg questions against your interlocutor.

(2) Take greater care to avoid proffering clearly fallacious arguments: **Do not appeal to questionable authorities; Avoid mere appeals to the popularity of a belief; Avoid circular arguments; Avoid *ad hominem*s** (or mere character attacks/assassinations); **Avoid Red Herrings** (or irrelevancies); **Do not equivocate; Do not make hasty generalizations** (or unfounded broad-sweeping generalizations); **Avoid *non sequiturs*** (concluding something that does not follow from what you have provided as evidence); **Don't contradict yourself.**

(3) Your comments would have benefited from more of a discussion than you have provided. **Remember not try to cover too much material in your discussion. Only move on to another point when you have adequately discussed the previous one.**

(4) You need to ensure that you adequately defend the claims you make in your discussion. I have noted where your claims (appear to) lack adequate defense. Remember the *ARG* criteria for argument evaluation: Are your reasons or premises **Acceptable, Relevant**, and do they (adequately) **Ground** (or support) your conclusion (or statement/claim)?

(5) I have noted where you appear to get the position under discussion wrong.

(6) I have noted where your choice of words commits you to a problematic claim (even if only as an implication of what you have said).

(7) You need to take greater care not to go beyond the evidence you provide for your claims (this is the 'G' in *ARG*).

(8) I have noted where you need more references than you have provided.

(9) Your sentence is awkwardly written, overly unclear or is not grammatical.

- (10) You need to take greater care not to (appear to) contradict yourself.
- (11) When you use a term of art (a specialized or technical term) you need to clearly explain its significance or meaning.
- (12) You need to take greater care to avoid using direct quotes. As I said in your assignment instructions, you are limited to one per assignment. After all, it is important that I see that you understand the material you are using in your discussion.
- (13) You need to take greater care to avoid repetition.
- (14) You need to take greater care to avoid gender exclusive language. This is Department policy.
- (15) You have not included all the necessary bibliographical material in your citations (I need to see, at the very least, the title of the work cited and page number, or, if its lecture notes, the day the lecture was given).
- (16) Remember to italicize or underline the titles of books.
- (17) Take greater care to avoid using opening sentences that are cheesy or flowery. They often involve generalizations that are either false or meaningless.

Andrew Fenton, Instructor