

Philosophy 1: Short Introduction to Philosophy
Summer Session B, 2009

Paper Assignment #1

Due at the beginning of lecture, Thursday, August 20, 2009. Your essay should be at least 3 pages long but no more than 4 pages, double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point, Times New Roman font or an equivalent (not Wingdings or Webdings). This paper is worth 25% of your course grade. Keep quotations to a minimum. **Do not simply cut and paste lecture notes, as that may constitute plagiarism.** You are expected to write a coherent and concise philosophical essay that will demonstrate your exegetical and analytical skills.

Late papers: Refer to the course syllabus for the policy on late papers.

Write on the following topic, answering each part of the topic:

State and explain Anselm's Ontological Argument, carefully walking through each step in his reasoning, and explaining each important concept he invokes in the Argument. Which of the objections to Anselm's argument that we have examined in class do you find most compelling, and why?* Be sure to state just how the objection you discuss purports to undermine the argument. How might one respond to the objection you discuss on behalf of Anselm? Be sure to carefully explain just how the response you offer purports to undermine the objection you've chosen to discuss.

* If you choose to discuss Gaunilo's objection you do not need to hold that it shows Anselm's argument to be invalid. However, if you think a convincing case can be made that the objection does show this, or that it definitely does not do this, by all means feel free to make it.