

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 100: Spring 2011. First assignment. Due Date, Friday March 4th.

Write at least five pages answering **one** of the following questions:

1. Why does Socrates think 'Philosophy' is worth dying for? What exactly is he dying for?
2. Explain as fully as possible the meaning and importance of Socrates' claim that he knows nothing, and knows he knows nothing.
3. Socrates has a very distinctive view of what matters in life. Explain and evaluate this view.
4. Are Socrates' views on death consistent throughout the *Apology*?
5. Explain why, according to his final argument (p.17-18), Socrates thinks that death is not a bad thing. Assess the argument, and consider whether such a view gives rise to any wider problems. (For example: can Socrates still think murder is wrong?)
6. Is Socrates at all times true to his "I know nothing" claim?
7. Does Euthyphro have a *better* understanding of holiness after talking to Socrates, and if so in what sense?
8. X is holy (and right) because it is loved by the gods — *or* — The gods love X because X is holy (and right). Explain the difference between these two options, and consider possible problems that might arise with each, and how you might resolve them.
9. Do we *still* (i.e., in 2011) face any problems equivalent to those discussed in the *Euthyphro*? (You should answer this question from the point of view of someone who believes that standards of right and wrong *should* derive, in some sense, from God.)
10. "A mouse is basically just like a watch." What follows from this?
11. Explain and critique Locke's "Mind First" argument.