

Final paper assignment

Choose one of the two paper topics below:

1) Compare and contrast the responses by Marilyn Adams and Peter Van Inwagen to the problem posed by *horrors*. Address yourself to four questions in particular. First, what is the problem of horrors for each author—what specific problem regarding horrors does each author attempt to solve? Second, how does each author attempt to solve the problem of horrors? Third, what are the costs and benefits of the two attempts to respond to the problem of horrors, in your estimation? And fourth, which of the two treatments of horrors do you think is more adequate for the purposes of theodicy, and why?

2) Over the course of the semester we have encountered a number of separate proposals intended to reconcile the existence of God with the existence of evil. In some cases the proposals are mutually exclusive; in other cases, the proposals, or components of them, could be combined. In your paper, advance a proposal that combines components of two or more proposals we have encountered in this course, and which in your judgment offers the best account of how the existence of God could be compatible with the existence of the amounts and kinds of evil that the actual world contains. In your presentation of this composite proposal be sure to make two things clear: first, that the components you select from our various authors can be combined into a single proposal, i.e. that the composite proposal is internally coherent; and second, that combining the components of several accounts solves problems from which the original accounts, considered separately, suffer.

Paper length: 12-15 pages

Due date: Wednesday, May 12, 12:00 noon

Turn in to: Chapin Hall, room 208 (my office; under the door if I am not in)

Guidelines:

Double-space your paper. Use 1" margins and a 12-point font. Number your pages. Write clearly and concisely; avoid excess verbiage. Where relevant, back up your claims with references to the texts we have read. Make sure your writing is grammatically and syntactically correct. Make use of the Writing Center if you need help doing so. Check your paper over carefully for spelling and typographical errors before turning it in. Make sure your paper addresses the assigned questions.

Notes:

1. The difference between 1" margins and 1.25" margins is evident to the professor's eye.
2. Extensions beyond the last day of the semester (May 14) will require the approval of a dean.
3. If you want to submit a rough draft, you will need to do so by **Wednesday, May 5**.
4. **If you want your paper returned with comments, you will need to submit a self-addressed envelope with your paper.** Use your summer address; don't worry about postage, I will pay for that.