Most of the readings are available online via SOLO.

Please email me your essays by **5pm on the day before our meeting**.

Your essay should be about **1,500 to 2,000 words** in length. Don’t tackle everything in a single essay and be selective about your readings. The reading lists¹ below are quite extensive, so that you can follow up on the issues you find interesting. Pick one interesting aspect of the topic, pick an argument/view that you like or dislike, and try to come up with interesting arguments. Try to have a clear structure and write in a simple and concise manner.

It would be great if you could read as much as possible of Mill’s *Utilitarianism* ahead of the term. (It’s short!)

Useful resources:

[https://philpapers.org](https://philpapers.org)
[https://plato.stanford.edu](https://plato.stanford.edu)

Podcasts:

[http://www.philosophybites.com](http://www.philosophybites.com)

Advice on writing philosophy essays:

[http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html)
[http://oyc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/philosophy-paper.pdf](http://oyc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/philosophy-paper.pdf)

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¹ I have borrowed heavily from Ralf Bader’s and Kacper Kowalczyk’s reading lists.
1. Pleasure, Happiness and Well-being

Essay topic:

1. Why does Mill distinguish between higher and lower pleasures, and does his account succeed?

Key reading
- Mill, J.S. Utilitarianism, ch. 2
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), ch. 2.

Further reading
- Parfit, D. Reasons and Persons, (OUP, 1996), Appendix I.
2. Forms of Consequentialism

Essay topic:

1. 'Either rule-utilitarianism licenses all and only the acts licensed by act-utilitarianism, or it is not defensible from a utilitarian point of view.' Discuss.

Key reading

- Mill, J.S. Utilitarianism, ch. 2, 3, 5
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), ch. 5

Further reading

3. Integrity

Essay topic (pick one):

1. What is the integrity objection to utilitarianism? How good is it?
2. Is utilitarianism too demanding?

Key reading
- Mill, J.S. Utilitarianism, ch. 1-4
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), ch. 6

Further reading
4. Justice and Rights

Essay topic (pick one):

1. Can a utilitarian give due weight to justice and individual rights?
2. Is utilitarianism too permissive?

Key reading
- Mill, J.S. Utilitarianism, ch. 5
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997) ch. 7

Further reading
- Scheffler, Samuel (ed.). Consequentialism and its Critics Oxford University Press, 1988, especially Introduction, Nagel's, Nozick's and Sen's chapters.
and 4.


5. Free Will

Essay topic:

1. Is a person free only if she can do otherwise?

Key reading

- Strawson, G. 'The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility', Philosophical Studies 1994
- van Inwagen, P. 'The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism', Philosophical Studies 1975
- Frankfurt, H. 'Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person', Journal of Philosophy 1971

Further reading

- Chisholm, R. 'Human Freedom and the Self'
- Ayer, A.J. 'Freedom and Necessity'
- Bennett, J. 'Accountability'
6. Personal Identity

Essay topic (pick one):

1. Could you survive having half of your brain transplanted into one body and half into another?
2. Could you survive teleportation?

Key reading
- Parfit, D. 'Personal Identity' or Parfit, D. Reason and Persons, chs. 10-13
- Lewis, D. 'Survival and Identity'

Further reading
- Williams, B. 'The Self and the Future'
- Williams, B. 'Personal identity and individuation'
- Nagel, T. 'Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness'

7. Mind and Body

Possible essay topics:

1. Does the knowledge argument show us that there is more to the world than the physical facts?

Key reading
- Jackson, F. 'Epiphenomenal Qualia'
- Jackson, F. 'What Mary Didn't Know'
- Lewis, D. 'What Experience Teaches'
- Nagel, T. 'What is it Like to be a Bat?'

Further reading