5% - Personal Philosophy Paper due THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 11:59PM via TURNITIN.COM

1. Go to http://www.turnitin.com
2. Register with www.turnitin.com and “signin” to our class – PHILOSOPHY 101
   a. CLASS IDs: 3441539.
   b. PASSWORDS: xmind
3. Turn it in Quick Start tutorial can be found at: http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_qs.pdf
4. Submit your paper following the below instructions. Note: do NOT include the instructions with your submission. Simply provide your ANSWER to five of the six assertions. Please number each answer – so if you decide to skip assertion 2, then you should be providing five answers: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6...

INSTRUCTIONS – total length should be 2 to 3 typed pages, 1.5 spacing, Margins: .7” or 1”

Respond in writing to any five of the six assertions or arguments below. An assertion (or claim) is a sentence about how things are and for which it makes sense to ask, “Is it true?” Or we can say that an assertion is a sentence that is true or false. Reasons are also assertions (or claims) that are given in support of a conclusion. When we give reasons for a conclusion we then have an argument.

When you are asked to give your argument, or to give reasons for your view, try to give one idea per reason and write your reasons as complete sentences. You reasons should logically support your conclusion. Your conclusion should be your view regarding the assertion that I’ve stated.

Specifically, you need to do the following for five of the six assertions: 1) State your “conclusion” – ie, whether you agree or disagree with the assertion and 2) Give three to five distinct reasons that support your belief or “conclusion” about each assertion(s).

Don’t worry about coming up with correct answers. Just put down what you think before formal study robs you of your philosophical innocence. Do not consult others about what to say including books, knowledgeable friends, parents, or authorities. Simply say what you think and why. The why here is important, it means to give reasons for your beliefs. Be sure to answer each assertion separately. You should be able to provide at least three or four distinct reasons for your conclusion about each assertion. I have provided an example answer below.

Grading Criteria: I will grade your papers based upon how clearly and comprehensively you answer each question:

1) Do you clearly state your opinion (or “conclusion”) about each assertion or argument?
2) Do you provide clear and distinct reasons that support your belief? Do you list at least three reasons per assertion?
3) Are your reasons plausible? Would they make sense to a rational person?
4) Do you avoid circular reasoning? (do you avoid using as a reason the view that you are trying to prove? For example, "I am hot because I am really warm." - this is circular reasoning. The reason given is the same as the view that is being argued for.)
These are the criteria I will grade you by. Note: your grade is not dependent upon getting the right answer but instead on how thoughtfully you answer the questions below. I suggest having a friend read your answers to you aloud this is an excellent, although painful, way of improving your writing. I have provided an example for you below.

Note: you do not need to provide an introduction nor tell me that you have not been given enough space to adequately answer each assertion! I do understand that the brevity of the paper precludes a full answer by you. So do your best with the limited paper length and try to be as precise and concise as possible.

Please respond to each assertion separately. State whether you agree or disagree and then simply number and list your reasons for your view as shown below. You may either type or neatly print your reasons. OPTIONAL: If you wish you can attach a typed "elaboration" page (no more than two pages) that clarifies your answers below. Be sure to tell me which assertion/answer you are clarifying if you choose to add an "elaboration" page.

ASSERTIONS:

1. Humans can be improved or degraded. There are certain types of music, movies, and even literature that can degrade us, i.e. – make us “worse” as human beings. Thus, if these degrading art-forms are not already illegal they should be.

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:

2. You might not like it but the reality is that everyone puts their own interests ahead of others. Everyone is selfish in this way. Since this is how things are in the “real world,” your first priority should be #1 – yourself.

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:

3. Each of us has an eternal soul or self that survives our bodily death.

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:

4. There are some things we can definitely know with 100% certainty.

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:

5. A God that is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving exists.

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:

6. A fair or just economic system should be ambition-sensitive and endowment-insensitive.

   That is, it should reward those who work hard and are ambitious AND… it should ensure that the starting gates are equal (it should compensate those who were UNLUCKY in the “genetics lottery (ie, one’s natural talents given by birth)” and/or the “environment lottery (ie, family, income level, country one is born into)”

   My view is: ________________ The reasons that support my view are:
Here’s an example of a reply (to an assertion from a similar assignment):

Assertion: Humans are superior to all other life forms. I AGREE with this assertion BECAUSE:

1. we can create and enjoy many different kinds of music — from rock to heavy metal to folk to electronica.
2. Animals can make sounds but they cannot make instruments nor create the kind of variety that we can.
3. With each new musical form that we invent new desires and pleasure experiences are created