

SECOND PAPER TOPICS  
due Tuesday, Nov. 22 by 3PM

PROBLEMS OF  
**PHILOSOPHY**

Write a 5 page double-spaced paper on one of the following topics. Put it in the mailboxes of your TA (Cathedral of Learning 10th floor) by the appointed time. If you use outside sources on your paper, be sure to cite them!

**Paper Topic 1** Pick the view among the three following positions on free will which you find to be the most plausible: Classical Compatibilism, “Extra Factor” Libertarianism, Skepticism. Then:

- (A) explain what this view is, and why it is the most plausible position on free will;
- (B) give the strongest objection to this view (you may, and indeed are encouraged, to use objections considered in class or in readings);  
and
- (C) provide an argument to defend your view against this objection.

**Paper Topic 2** In this paper you will say whether or not you would be willing to use what I called “version 1” of Parfit’s teletransporter (which does not squish you or create any duplicates). Assume that you are sure that *this one time* the teletransporter won’t malfunction in any way. Do the following:

- (1) Describe the teletransporter and its operations. [If you want, you can ‘fill in more details’ of its operation that we didn’t give in class however you like, if you think those details are relevant.]
- (2) State clearly whether your using the teletransporter would kill you.
  - (A) If you said it won’t kill you: give the best reason you can think of why someone might think using the teletransporter would kill you, and then provide an argument to show that this worry is mistaken.
  - (B) If you said it would kill you: Many people note that if they used the teletransporter they would not notice anything different, and would ‘feel’ as if they survived. Give the best argument you can think of to show to someone who has come out of a teletransporter ‘safely’ that they were not alive before coming out of the teletransporter and should not use it lest they die. [Don’t address your paper to such a person in the second person—their case is just a heuristic.]

Spend most of your time (3–4 pages) on (3).

**Paper Topic 3** In this paper you'll say whether or not you think it is *in principle possible* for you to survive your inevitable bodily destruction. Do the following:

- (1) Very clearly and succinctly state and describe any view about personal identity. You may use any view we gave from class, a slightly modified version of a view we gave in class, or even a wholly new view.
- (2) Say whether, on this view, it is in principle possible for human beings to survive their bodily destruction. [Take a clear stance here: "yes" or "no".]
- (3) (A) If you said humans could survive their bodily destruction on the view in (1),
  - (i) describe a scenario in which someone survives their bodily destruction;
  - (ii) present the best objection you can think of to the claim that this person has survived; and
  - (iii) provide an argument against that objection.
- (B) If you said humans *couldn't* survive their bodily destruction on the view in (1),
  - (i) present the best objection you can think of to the view from (1); and
  - (ii) provide an argument against that objection.

Spend most of your time (at least 3 pages) on parts (Aii-iii) and (Bi-ii) respectively.