

# Ethical Theory

## General Technical Requirements for Written Assignments

All written assignments are expected to satisfy the following:

1. Have a cover page consisting of a signed and dated copy of the course's Academic Honor Code (you sign by typing your name).
2. Adhere to the specified word count.
3. Be double-spaced.
4. Be written in 12PT, "Times New Roman" (or something very similar).
5. Have side-margins of 1 inch.
6. Have horizontal alignment that is fully justified.
7. Have no extra space between paragraphs.
8. Have each paragraph begin with a tab indentation.
9. Have the paper's total word count at the top left corner of the first page.
10. Have a descriptive title (see section on title pages below).
11. Have page numbers (see section on page numbering below).
12. Cite all quotes and other material with footnotes (see section on citing your sources below).

Yes, this is boring, and yes, it is pedantic. The point of all these requirements, however, is to allow me to focus more on the *contents* of your paper and not on your skills (or lack thereof) in design. Besides these should also be trivial to follow when using most word processing software. To help, *I have included a template satisfying these requirements on the course website.*

**Title Pages:** For the purposes of this course, your title information should occur *at the top of the second page* of your paper (after your signed copy of the course's Academic Honor Code) and only consist of (1) your paper's word count, (2) the assignment's name, (3) a descriptive and meaningful title, and (4) your name. The word count should be at the top left, while the rest should be centered. Everything should be single-spaced in the same font, size, and style as the rest of your paper. The following is an example:

Word Count: 703	Troy McClure – 2
Analytic Summary #1 John Stuart Mill's Argument Against Chocolate By Troy McClure	
Since the dawn of time, man has enjoyed chocolate. In the days of	

In order to be descriptive and meaningful, the title should give a good indication as to the contents of the paper—and you will have a better idea of this once you complete the paper. So do it last. Feel free to personalize it but do not go crazy.

While a title like "A Summary of Mill's Test of the Cognoscenti" is not very exciting, it is perfectly adequate for an analytical summary: it tells the reader the principle issue involved, that it is a summary, and what aspect of the text it covers. Similarly for "Happiness is the Foundation of Morality" as a title for a position paper: it specifies the issue, the principal authors involved, and whom you defend on that issue. Keep it simple and direct, being clever and witty takes up time better spent writing the paper itself.

**Page Numbers:** Page numbers should appear on the top-right of each page, starting on the second page (i.e., there should be *no* page number on the cover page with the Honor Code). Page numbers should otherwise be in the same font, size, and style as the rest of your paper, and have your name followed by a hyphen and the page number. The following is an example:

Troy McClure – 3
chocolate, like we have today, it was mixed with shredded tobacco. And

**Citing Your Sources:** All citations should be done in footnotes, following the rules below. Footnote text should otherwise be in the same font, size, and style as the rest of your paper. The following is an example:

that "it is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a fool satisfied". <sup>1</sup>
<sup>1</sup> John Stuart Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , p. 188.

You are required to properly cite all your sources (see the course syllabus for the academic integrity policy). Do this whenever you find yourself quoting or otherwise using the ideas of another person. When citing, please follow the rules below, keeping in mind that *you must cite all sources, even if you are only putting their ideas into your own words.*

For any text that was assigned for class, you only need to cite (1) the author, (2) the title, and (3) the page numbers, as in:

Shelly Kagan, *Normative Ethics*, pp. 2–3.

For Internet sources that were not assigned for class, you need to cite (as they are available) (1) the author, (2) the page title, (3) the editor, (4) the website name, (5) the publisher's location and name, (6) the date of publication (7) the date you accessed it, and (8) the URL, as in:

T.H. Irwin, "Aristotle" in E. Craig (Editor), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1998), retrieved on September 15, 2012 from <http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/A022>.

Richard Kraut, "Plato", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2004), retrieved on September 15, 2012 from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>.

Thomas Brickhouse and Nicholas D. Smith, "Plato", *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, retrieved on September 15, 2012 from <http://www.iep.utm.edu/p/plato.htm>.

"Aristotle", *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, retrieved on September 15, 2012 from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle>.

For articles that were not assigned for class, you need to cite (1) the author, (2) the article title, (3) the periodical title, (4) the volume, (5) the date of publication, and (6) the page numbers, as in:

John Rawls, "The Domain of the Political and Overlapping Consensus", *New York University Law Review* 64 (1989), p. 235.

For books that were not assigned for class, you need to cite (1) the author, (2) the date, (3) the book title, (4) the publisher's information, and (5) the page numbers, as in:

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), pp. 85–106.

In addition, you must also cite any outside sources. For example, if a classmate has something you want to use in your own paper, you must cite it, like this:

From a conversation with X.

From the notes of X.

Similarly, if you seek assistance from the Academic Resource Center (ARC), then you must also cite it in a footnote, for instance, as follows:

X from the ARC helped me improve the grammar and spelling in this paragraph.

If you receive more thorough assistance, e.g., spanning most of your assignment, then be sure to clearly indicate this in a footnote at the end of the paper.

**Exception:** In any summary or position paper, you should cite the articles being addressed (i.e., the readings directly referenced in the topic prompt I assigned) only when you directly quote them. There is no need to cite them when putting their ideas into your own words; given the nature of these types of assignments, such citations are already assumed. However, you must still cite *any* additional material—regardless of whether it is an assigned course reading or not, and regardless of whether you are directly quoting, paraphrasing, or otherwise adapting another person's ideas.

**If you are ever uncertain, please ask; do not assume.**