Final Paper Assignment
Philosophy 364

**Purpose:** The purpose of the midterm paper assignment is to demonstrate your understanding of the material, your writing ability, and your philosophical thinking.

**Topic:** Your assignment is to write an essay in which you present, explain, and evaluate two different views on the good life from ancient Greek philosophy (e.g., hedonism, Epicureanism, Stoicism, Aristotelianism, or skepticism). In each case, you should discuss at least one argument in support of, or relating to, the view you are addressing (e.g., the hedonists' Argument from Nature, Epicurus' Argument on Death, Cicero's Argument for Stoicism, Aristotle's Function Argument, or Sextus Empiricus' First Mode). You should also discuss potential objections, both to the arguments, and to the views themselves.

**Details:**
- Papers are due in my mailbox or under my office door (Bond 302) by 10am on Tuesday, June 6th.
- Late papers will be penalized 10%, plus an additional 10% for each additional 24 hours. So, for example, if you turn in your paper at 10:01am, you lose 4 points. If you turn it in at 10:01am on the 7th, you lose 8 points. And so on.
- Papers must be at least 2,500 words in length.
- Your title should appear on the first page.
- Your name and word count should appear on a separate page at the end of the paper (so as to allow for anonymous grading).
- Papers are worth 40 points, which is 40% of your course grade.
- Papers will be graded on both content and presentation.
- Papers should conform to the advice in the checklist on the course website.

**Resources:** On the website, you will find a checklist for your philosophy paper that provides specific advice on everything from substance to form to style. Also on the website, you will find an example of a good philosophy paper that gives a concrete example of this advice in action. I will be going over one of these items in some detail on Tuesday, May 30th. We will also be having a review day on Thursday, June 1st. If you have any questions, you can come to regular office hours or bring them with you to the review day.

---

*Note that you don’t need to stick to the arguments from class. For example, Epicurus supports his view on the good life with a version of The Argument from Nature, and you could discuss that argument rather than his Argument on Death. You could also discuss one of Cicero’s other arguments for Stoicism, or one of Empiricus’ other arguments for skepticism. It’s up to you.*