

# Term Paper (PHIL 194W)

*due March 23*

The major assignment for this course is a term paper. This is an opportunity for you to think about a literary work of your choosing and what it tells us about the relation between literature and the moral imagination. Your topic should be one of personal interest to you, and one which allows you to grow as a scholar.

## *Guidelines*

**Your term paper should be between 3000 and 4000 words in length** (i.e., 12 to 16 double-spaced pages). Your term paper should concern some aspect of the relation between literature and the moral imagination, and be grounded in an analysis of a specific literary work. Beyond that, the focus of your term paper, and the literary work you choose to analyze, are up to you.

**Your term paper must defend a specific and original thesis** about the relation between literature and the moral imagination. It may not be a mere summary of other material; you must analyze and/or synthesize the material you discuss as well. Your term paper must also go beyond what was covered in lecture (this is part of what is meant by its being an “original” thesis). This may be accomplished by going more in-depth into something discussed in lecture, or by bringing in readings not explicitly covered in class, or by situating your position in relation to other scholarship.

**Your thesis must be grounded in an analysis of a specific literary work.** What I mean by this is that I want you to motivate, illustrate, and/or support your thesis about literature and the moral imagination by means of a specific and illuminating literary example, which in some way engages our moral imagination. Your literary work can be whatever you want it to be, but it should serve to highlight the specific

aspect of the relation between literature and the moral imagination that you are discussing.

**Your term paper must engage with at least one piece of scholarship on literature and the moral imagination.** By “engage with” I do not mean simply cite. You must analyze, critique, and be in conversation with the piece. You should choose a piece of scholarship that is appropriate to the topic of your term paper.

### *Formatting*

Your term paper may be formatted however you wish, but please remember that it is going to be read by another human (namely, me). A legible font, ample margins, and appropriate line spacing will all be appreciated. **Please also give your term paper a title**, which concisely prepares the reader for the paper to come.

Citations of any sources should be referenced according to some standard bibliographical style of your choosing. A bibliography of all works cited should be included at the end.

### *Turning it in*

Please submit your term paper, in PDF format, via Canvas by end of day on March 23 (or, for all your night owls, by 8 A.M. the following morning).

Because the deadline is the end of the quarter, late papers will not be accepted. Any papers not received by the deadline will automatically receive a 0.

### *Grading*

Your term paper will be graded on quality of analysis, clarity of writing, cogency of argument, and originality. The grading rubric I will be using will be made available on the course website.