

Skepticism, Atheism, and Religious Faith (Religious Studies 2LL3) – Fall 2017

TEXT PREPARATION 1 – Assignment due in class on October 17

This assignment consists of attendance of the full class session on October 17, plus completing the written assignment below, to be submitted in class on October 17 only.

(*Rationale:* Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class meeting, in conjunction with your participation in that class meeting, when we go over the reading selection together.)

If you cannot come to class on October 17, please plan to complete a different Text Preparation assignment for a future date.

Please do not complete this assignment if you have not yet received your marked first assignment for this class. It is important to take full account of past feedback received before completing the second assignment for this course.

This assignment is based on:

- Immanuel Kant, selection from *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788), trans. Mary Gregor [included in coursepack; or copy from *Practical Philosophy* on reserve: pp. 236–55]: Part IV (“The Immortality of the Soul as a Postulate of Pure Practical Reason”); and Part V (“The Existence of God as a Postulate of Pure Practical Reason”).

Detailed Instructions. In well-written paragraphs, a total of 500–600 words, please address both of the following two questions with detailed reference to the text. (Please number your answers accordingly.)

1. (regarding Part IV) According to Kant, what is “hope”? What is the connection of “hope” to the immortality of the soul as a postulate of practical reason?
2. (regarding Part V) According to Kant, in what respects does the Christian doctrine of morals conform to “the moral law”?

As was the case for the Text Summary assignment, your observations should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on. For this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references – for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources* [selection in coursepack/book on reserve/purchase book], p. 51, under “MLA Basic Rules.”

Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font. Please write your name and “Text Preparation 1” at the top of the first page, and indicate the total word count at the end. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the Text Preparation assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what the text says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on it. The assignment is not evaluated for whether it demonstrates a good understanding of the reading, but for evidence of your having worked in detail to understand the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class and tutorial meetings, and with successive re-readings.

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Plagiarism Warning: This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on the assigned selection from Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, aided by the guidance you have received in class/tutorial and by consulting the instructor: I am always available to discuss the questions you encounter as you read and re-read the texts for this class. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you consult outside sources in order to complete this assignment. Please remember that unacknowledged use of such sources constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the university's [Academic Integrity policy](#).

Please keep a copy of your assignment to refer to in our class discussions of Kant over the next couple of meetings.

posted October 8, 2017