

Paper #1 Instructions
PHIL 452, Spring 2025
Due March 23 by 11:59pm via WebCampus

Write an essay of 1500-2000 words answering the question:

(A) What, if any, is the best definition of art?

Your essay should compare, contrast, and argue for the theory (or non-theory) that you think is best from our readings (up to but not including Heidegger) over what you take to be the second-best and third-best alternatives from the readings (defending this ranking as well).

Grading:

An **A** paper is excellent. It contains few, if any grammatical mistakes, spelling errors, or stylistic infelicities. It has a clear and well-defined thesis. It supports its claims with argumentation, which includes considering replies and counter-positions. It explains technical terminology. It stays on topic. It is clear, concise, and complete.

A **B** paper is very good. It may contain a few grammatical mistakes, spelling errors, or stylistic infelicities. It has a clear and well-defined thesis. It supports its claims with argumentation, which includes considering replies and counter-positions. It explains technical terminology. It mostly stays on topic. It is mostly clear, concise, and complete.

A **C** paper is average. It probably contains some grammatical mistakes, spelling errors, and/or stylistic infelicities. Its thesis isn't as clear and well-defined as it should be. It supports its claims with argumentation, though the argumentation isn't quite as strong as it should be. It may not explain its technical terminology. It mostly stays on topic. It would be improved if it were more clear, concise, and complete.

A **D** paper has failed in some aspect of the assignment. Perhaps it contains too many errors to be readable (grammatical, spelling, or stylistic). Or its thesis is too unclear or undefined to be defensible. Or it fails to support its claims with adequate argumentation. Or it fails to define its technical terminology adequately. Or it fails to stay on topic enough to generate a sustained essay. In general, it is not clear enough or concise enough or complete enough.

An **F** paper has failed in multiple aspects of the assignment. It may be unreadable. Or it may lack a defensible thesis. Or it may lack argumentation. Or it may lack adequate explanations. Or it may not stay on topic. It needs multiple revisions and edits to make it acceptably clear, concise, and complete.

Plagiarism (or academic dishonesty of any kind, which includes using AI) will result in an F for the whole course and a report to the Office of Student Conduct. We will use plagiarism and AI detectors. Consult the course syllabus for the course policy prohibiting the use of generative AI or AI-based "rewriting" programs.