

Paper Assignments

- Reflection Papers

- A central outcome of this class is to comprehend Aldo Leopold's land ethic both as it stands alone and in the context of his body of writing. These reflection papers are meant to be steps along this path.
- Students choose the theme of each reflection themselves. However, the scope of each is defined by the reading schedule. Typically, the scope of the reflection paper covers the week's reading when the paper, itself, is due. Students may extend the scope of the paper to include any reading since the preceding paper.
- Students are encouraged to use or to integrate the themes and/or content of these papers in their midterm and final papers.
- Each paper will be assessed on five criteria: (i) precision of presentation, (ii) coherence of argument, (iii) elegance of writing, (iv) philosophical merit, and (v) sufficiency of explanation.

- Midterm/Final Papers

- As noted above, a central outcome of the class is to understand the significance Leopold's land ethic. The midterm and final papers will be the primary assessment of this understanding.
 - The midterm will focus exclusively on primary source material.
 - The final will employ both primary and secondary source material.
- Each of these papers is a thesis defense. Students will choose the theme and the thesis of their paper in consultation with the professor.
- Both the midterm and the final paper ought to be an original work of the student. You may incorporate elements from previous reflection papers in your midterm or final, but this content will need to be refined for the purposes of the thesis defense paper.
- The grade earned will be based on five criteria: (i) the clarity and consistency of the thesis throughout the paper, (ii) the effectiveness of the opening and closing paragraphs, (iii) the coherence of the argument for the thesis and the corresponding appropriateness of evidence employed, (iv) the overall organization of the paper, including the clarity and fluidity of major transitions in the argument, and (v) the quality of the writing, i.e., grammar, syntax, and style. See the rubric at the conclusion of this handout for more details.

Academic Integrity

Conclusive evidence of plagiarism from any source will result in a zero for paper at a minimum, more likely a zero for the class and possibly official punitive measures. The University defines plagiarism in a handout available on the University Ombud's web site. The address of this handout is:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>. This is the definition of plagiarism used in this class.

Furthermore, wherever the work of 2 or more students is related in such a way as to provide evidence of cheating, such as matching elements of an essay or the collective copying of responses from some other source, all students committing the infraction will be punished accordingly. Depending on the severity of the infraction, the case may be referred to the Philosophy Department Chair and the Dean of your College.

Deadlines & Formatting

- Reflection Papers (11 total)
 - Deadlines: see the Daily Schedule for the due date of each reflection paper
 - These papers are due at the beginning of the class indicated in the Daily Schedule.
 - You will provide the professor with a physical copy of the paper.
 - Formatting
 - Length = one sheet of paper. At minimum, the product should be ca. one page, double-spaced. At maximum, the piece can take up both sides of the page, single-spaced.
 - (i) Your name and (ii) date of submission should be published in the header.
 - (i) Reflection paper number and (ii) word count should be published in the footer
 - Text margins should be no less than 0.5" and no more than 1.0" for top/bottom & left/right margins.
- Midterm & Thesis Papers (1 each)
 - Midterm deadline: Sunday, October 7 at 11:59pm
 - Undergraduate Students: 5-7 pages
 - Graduate Students: 10-15 pages
 - Final deadline: Wednesday, December 14 at 12:30pm
 - Undergraduate Students: 10-15 pages
 - Graduate Students: 15-20 pages
 - Midterm/Final papers will be uploaded to the Canvas site and must be formatted as Word documents with the extension .docx or .doc.
 - Text
 - margins should be 1 inch for top/bottom and left/right.
 - paper should be double-spaced
 - Except for the paper title, which should be at the top of the paper, please include the following information at the conclusion of the paper:
 - Student's Name
 - Date Submitted
 - Word Count (minus footnotes and bibliography).
 - Number every page

Midterm & Thesis Paper Evaluation Rubric

An "A" paper (100-90 points) has the following elements:

- Good, clear thesis and complete and consistent discussion of major parts of the topic
- Concise, engaging and comprehensive introductory and closing paragraphs
- All the parts of the paper fit together clearly and elegantly into a single coherent whole
- Accurate, skillful use of argument and evidence
- No significant grammatical, syntactical or stylistic errors

A "B" paper (89-80 points) has the following:

- Weakly stated thesis
- Bland or inadequate introductory and closing paragraphs

- Merely adequate argument and evidence offered but obvious objections not considered
- Transitions tentative or not clearly logical
- Some grammatical, syntactical or stylistic errors but does not affect clarity of central argument

A "C" paper (79-70 points) has:

- Sometimes inconsistent discussion of thesis
- Overly brief introduction or conclusion
- Loosely related arguments or evidence to which objections are obvious
- Missing transitions
- Grammatical, syntactical or stylistic errors that disrupt clarity of overall presentation

A "D" paper (69-60 points):

- Incompetent discussion of thesis or thesis merely implicit, not readily apparent
- Missing either opening or closing paragraphs
- Garbled, inaccurate discussion in which little evidence or argument is presented; abuse of quotations
- Gaps in organization
- Significant grammatical, syntactical or stylistic errors make the paper unreadable in part or in whole