

**First Paper Topic**  
**Philosophy 168**  
**Fall, 2011**

Length should be approximately 6 pages. Please use a line spacing of 3 lines per inch (double-spaced) and a left margin of 1½ inches, 1 inch elsewhere. Point size may be no less than 10.\* Papers will be evaluated on the basis of both content and quality of writing. You may cite the assigned readings in the text and the material on the course Web site.

**Due: February 21, in class.**

At the end of the Fourth Meditation, Descartes makes the following claim: “I shall unquestionably reach the truth, if only I give sufficient attention to all the things which I perfectly understand, and separate these from all the other cases where my apprehension is more confused and obscure.” What is the meaning of this claim? What are examples of things which he claims to understand perfectly and those whose apprehension is more confused and obscure? How did Descartes justify his claim? Be sure to point out any weaknesses you find in Descartes’s argument for this claim.

\*This is an example of 10-point type.