

Second Paper Topic
Philosophy 1
Winter, 2014

Due: March 4, 2014, in class

Write an essay of roughly 5 pages on the following topic. Use the original writings of the philosopher as found in the text as the basis of your work. Be sure to quote the text whenever you attribute a claim to the philosopher. Papers not turned in on the day due will be penalized progressively, with the penalties increasing each two working days overdue. Papers should be double-spaced with ample room in the margins for comments.

Be sure to include the name of your teaching assistant along with your own name.

Thomas Aquinas in the *Summa Theologicæ* gave five arguments for the existence of God.

You are to give an exposition of any one of the five arguments. First, explain in a general way what the conclusion is and how the argument is supposed to proceed. Then show in a step-wise format how the premises support the conclusion. Next, comment on the plausibility of each of the premises contained in the argument. Raise at least one criticism of at least one of the premises, even if you think that the criticism fails and the premise is true. Comment on the plausibility of each criticism you raise. Finally, state your position with respect to the success of the argument, choosing from one of the following options and explaining why you choose the one you do:

- Accept the argument as being both valid and sound,
- Accept that the argument is valid but deny that it is sound,
- Deny that the argument is valid and that the argument is sound.

Reminder: An argument is valid just in case the conclusion must be true if the premises are true. An argument is sound just in case it is valid and the premises are all true.