

**First Paper Topic**  
**Philosophy 24**  
**Fall, 2014**

Length should be approximately 5 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 12. 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: April 29, in class.**

Consider *ethical egoism* as described by Rachels in “A Critique of Ethical Egoism.” Explain the second argument, attributed to Ayn Rand, in favor of ethical egoism. Produce the best evidence you can from the selection from *Atlas Shrugged* that Rand advanced this argument. Then give an account of Rachels’s objections to it. Finally, take your own stand on the Randian version of ethical egoism (as described by Rachels). If you favor ethical egoism, try to rebut the objections you are to have explained. If you are opposed to it, either defend the two objections you have laid out or bring forward your own objections. If you are convinced by neither side in the dispute, explain the main problems you see both sides as having.