

PHI243/POL312 - PHILOSOPHY OF LAW/JURISPRUDENCE

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GRADED ASSIGNMENT #3 - DUE APRIL 18 , 2016

This assignment asks you to compose a philosophical dialogue. This is not a mere succession of conflicting opinions. It is an exchange between two interlocutors who disagree with one another, and offer reasons and arguments in support of their claims. Each interlocutor strives to offer the best arguments in support of her position, and at the same time, raise the best objections to the arguments of the other side.

Desiderata:

- 5-7 page long
- focuses on a well-defined philosophical question
- draws from the course readings on law and morality
- demonstrates independent and creative thinking
- elegantly and clearly written
- consists of a detailed, precise and well-reasoned discussion
- contains clear definitions of the terminology used
- contains the strongest arguments in defense of a thesis
- contains the strongest objections against the same thesis

Prompts are on the next page.

Prompt 1: Compose a dialogue between Antigone and Socrates on whether disobeying the law of the state can be legitimate or not. Use vivid examples if possible, beginning with Antigone's case and Socrates' case.

Prompt 2: Modify Plato's *Crito*. Make Crito's arguments for why Socrates should escape from prison more cogent. Create a fictional Crito who is less deferential to Socrates than he is in Plato's dialogue. Compose a dialogue in which Crito is able to give a hard time—philosophically speaking—to Socrates.

Prompt 3: Compose a dialogue between Hart and Fuller either on the topic of the penumbra or the topic of Nazi laws and unjust laws. The first part of the dialogue will be a summary of the objections and replies from the readings. The second part of the dialogue will instead contain your own new ideas.

Prompt 4: Come up with your topic and characters for a dialogue that is relevant to the course topic "law and morality".

I encourage you to discuss your ideas with me, through e-mail or in person, before you start writing your dialogue. My office hours are M-W 2-3PM in Carman 365.

NB: Prerequisite for this assignment is a "PASS" on all the pass/fail assignments so far.