**Requirements for Honors Credit Philosophy Papers**

Honors students who wish to receive Honors credit for their second core requirement in Philosophy may write an extra paper for assessment by Philosophy Department faculty at Loyola. The paper does not receive a letter grade, but is judged to have passed (a grade of C or above) or failed (C- to F). Students who get a pass will receive Honors credit for the course.

**Papers for 300-level credit**

**Length: 10-12 pages**

**General Assignment**: The paper should be an original treatment of a philosophically significant topic. It should include an explanation of the importance of the topic, and display knowledge of the relevant secondary literature. However, the main emphasis of the paper should be on your own arguments and conclusions. It is considered a strength if you entertain counterargument(s) to your thesis, and indicate why they do not invalidate your argument. Be clear about what the evidence for your conclusion is. All sources must be completely documented using APA style.

**Choosing a topic**: The paper should have a strong relationship to the subject matter of the course taken abroad. It should deal with a genuine philosophical problem or theme, and discuss it in an original fashion. The problem to be engaged with should be clearly stated. It is never sufficient to simply summarize a philosopher’s view or the argument of a book or article.

**Reminders**: Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation are not decorative, they are essential. Don’t weaken the impact of your argument by presenting it with marred by errors or incomplete citations.

All good papers have a clearly articulated structure, allowing the reader quickly to grasp what is at stake, what arguments are being advanced, and what the conclusion is.

Summaries of arguments and counterarguments are insufficient. We know that you can read and write; we are interested in how well you can think.