Write an essay on **ONE**of the following topics. **Check your reading schedule for exact due date. The essay is due in class, hardcopy.**

Your essay must be 4 to 6 pages long not including quotes from other authors. Essays shorter than 4 pages will lose points according to the percentage of missing material; E.g. Missing one page = 25% missing = 0 for 25% of the paper grade. Students attempting to make their essay look long by using large gaps between paragraphs or in their headings etc., will lose points.

Use a 12-point font, and double-space the lines except the space between paragraphs.

Be sure to include page references to our text, but you do not require a bibliography unless you use other sources. Use of other sources (including websites) is permitted but must be properly referred to.

Hints: (a) structure your essay into sections (b) explain all quotes (c) explain an idea by using an example of the idea – proves you really understand the idea (d) have a thesis or “pick sides” (e) but always try to explain the reasons behind…everything you say and what the authors say.

Enjoy!

**Topic One. Can the freewill defense solve the problem of evil?**

(i) State and explain the atheist's argument from evil for the nonexistence of God.

(ii) Define and explain the concept of compatibilism as discussed by Stace (and any other concept essential to understanding Stace's view)

(iii) **IF** Stace is **correct**about compatibilism being true, can God make a world in which freewill exists and there is no evil? Explain your answer and its relevance to the atheist's argument.

(iv) Explain the point, and relevance to the debate, of the following quote from J.L. Mackie: “If there is no logical impossibility in a man’s freely choosing the good on one, or on several occasions, then there cannot be a logical impossibility in his freely choosing the good on every occasion.”

**Topic Two. Can we be responsible for our actions?**

**[i]** State and explain Strawson’s argument for the non-existence of morally responsible action.

**[ii]** State and explain the luck argument for the incompatibility of freewill with indeterminism (i.e. what is the argument for saying that freewill is incompatible with the falsity of determinism?)

**[iii]** State and explain Kane's concept of a self-forming action.

**[iv]**  (a) Does Kane's offer a good response to Strawson's argument? (b) Does Kane's view offer a good response to the luck argument? Discuss.

**Topic Three. What is Personal Identity?**

**[i]** State and explain Locke’s argument that we are not substances or mere souls

**[ii]** State and explain Locke’s concept of personal identity and its relation to what he calls self, consciousness and punishment.

**[iii]** State and explain Reid’s criticism of Locke’s theory of personal identity

**[iv]** Is Reid’s objection a good one? Discuss.