

**Philosophy 1, The Examined Life**

**Fall, 1998**

**Second Paper Assignment**

**Due in Class Monday, October 26**

(Note: Late papers will be penalized. All papers, however late, must be in by Dec. 4 in order for you to pass the course)

Please write a short paper (three-to-five typed, double-spaced pages) on one of the topics below. Remember that your paper will be evaluated on how well it presents arguments and evidence. In general, the goal of presenting a clear, coherent argument will be furthered if you organize your paper around a single, engaging thesis statement (see handouts).

1. Is Voltaire's Pangloss a fair satire of Leibniz? Please pay attention to the fine points of both Candide and Leibniz's Discourse in framing your answer.
2. Kant demands that in choosing our actions we determine whether we can will the maxim of our actions to be a universal law (of nature). In every-day decision-making, is this procedure possible, or even desirable? Please avoid superficial answers.
3. Consider Cleanthes' argument in Hume's Dialogues, Part II, p. 927, and Philo's subsequent response. Does Philo's response constitute a definitive refutation of the argument that the universe must be the product of some kind of designing intelligence (note emphasis). If not, what, if anything, would?