

A.2.2 Optional Paper Topic

Below is the topic for the optional paper.

- You are required to turn in a **prospectus** on Monday, 4/20, by email. A prospectus contains:
 1. a thesis statement
 2. an abstract (about 300 words) or an outline of your paper
 3. a bibliography

The aim is for me to put you back on track, in case you are not. I will give you comments on your prospectus.

- You are required to turn in the **full paper** on Wednesday, 4/29, **HARD COPIES IN CLASS**. It should be between **800 and 1000** words in length.

Without prior arrangement, the grade of any late paper will be lowered by one step of a grade a day (B+ to B for example). Please read with attention section 1.6 of the syllabus on my grading policies. You will also find link to guidelines about writing a philosophy paper (mine and some from other professors with whom I agree) on the exam page of the course website.

- **Topic:**

It seems that all three accounts of the ultimate nature of reality given by Spinoza, Leibniz and Berkeley are compatible with what we can observe of the world. Let us assume that one of these accounts truly describes what our world is like. Which of these three accounts would you prefer to be the true one? Explain why. Tips: make sure to make clear what the three accounts have in common, and how they differ. Make sure to explain why you would prefer one over the other.

BE CAREFUL: The topic is *not* about which of Spinoza's, Leibniz' or Berkeley's metaphysics is true. It is about which one you would *prefer* to be true, assuming that (1) you know that one of them is true, but (2) you don't know which one it is.