

PHI 014 – Introduction to Ethics

Written assignment #2

Professor Boone B. Gorges

Write an essay responding to **one** of the following prompts:

- (1) Using one of Kant's prototypical duties as an example, discuss the relationship between the categorical imperative and the idea of a *rational* will. What assumptions does Kant need to make about the rational will in order to make his argument work? Are these assumptions warranted?
- (2) Analyze what Hobbes would say about *civil disobedience*, the idea that one can protest an unjust law by refusing to obey it. Does this position make Hobbes's social contract theory more or less appealing as an explanation of moral value?

Guidelines for your essay:

- Your paper must defend a thesis. Therefore it must *have* a thesis. Take a clear stand on the issue, and make your position non-trivial.
- The essay must be between 1000 and 1200 words long. This corresponds to roughly 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages.
- There should be little reason to cite sources other than Kant/Hobbes or Rachels. However, any source that you *do* reference in your writing must be documented in MLA style.
- On **Tuesday, November 25**, we'll be going over tentative thesis statements. Come to class with a typed copy of yours on that day.
- Final versions must be submitted electronically, as an email attachment to boonebgorges@gmail.com. The deadline is **Thursday, December 4, at the beginning of class**.