

7th Annual Oakland University Philosophy Essay Contest 2015



Submission Guidelines:

- Eligible essays: papers previously submitted in part or whole for any OU philosophy class, limit one
- Eligible contestants: any currently enrolled undergraduate Oakland University student
- Amount of award: \$1,000
- Paper Length: 8 to 12 pages, double-spaced, in .doc, .rtf, or .pdf formats only
- Submission deadline: April 6, 2015
- Papers will be reviewed blindly. This means faculty on the essay reading committee (currently Philosophy Department professors Dr. Derek Green and Dr. Per-Erik Milam, both Visiting Assistant Professors) will not be given any information concerning the writer's identity (name, gender, field of study, etc.).
- To submit your essay for blind review:
 - Email it as a set of 2 attachments with "Essay Contest" in the subject line to: Ann Zimmerman zimmerm2@oakland.edu (Philosophy department secretary) as follows:
 - ✦ The attachment containing the paper should not contain any information identifying the author.
 - ✦ The attachment with a cover sheet (not the paper) should only contain the title of the paper, the author's name, major(s) at Oakland, home address, e-mail address, and phone number.
- Papers will be independently rated by reviewers on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 reflecting the highest possible score.
- Criteria include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
 - ✦ Content, philosophical insight, and originality
 - ✦ Clarity of expression and exposition
 - ✦ Paper has a specific thesis on the correctness or incorrectness of a significant philosophical viewpoint
 - ✦ Textual passages, if any, are closely read and properly cited
 - ✦ Rigor of argument
 - ✦ Possible criticisms are anticipated along with responses
 - ✦ Independence of thought
 - ✦ Paper is not merely a reading of a philosophical text or a summary of a school of thought
- Supplemental reviews will be conducted by other philosophy faculty in cases where:
 - ✦ there are substantial differences between reviewers in their independent assessments of a paper's merits.
 - ✦ either committee member is the instructor who graded the paper or the paper is one a reviewer has seen before.
- Students will be notified concerning acceptance or rejection by May 5, 2015.
- Accepted papers may, at the discretion of the essay committee and author be published on the OU Philosophy Department webpage. Previous years' winning essays can be found at <http://www.oakland.edu/phil/news/archive>
- Questions concerning the essay can be directed to Professor Green (dagreen@oakland.edu) or Professor Milam (milam@oakland.edu). Please do not inquire with specifics which might identify you as the author of a specific submission.
- **All submissions will be read in their entirety and carefully considered. The philosophy department appreciates your commitment to philosophical engagement!**