

Instructions

You are asked to submit an essay of 1,500-2,000 words. You must include a word count, a violation of the word limit will result in a deduction. Your response essay must be clearly structured, precisely worded, validly argued, and diligently spell-checked. Be as concise as possible without compromising clarity. Because the essay you are asked to write is not long, I expect that you spend more thought on just how you want to organize your answer, as well as on rewriting the paper. There are some additional rules to keep in mind, as specified on the syllabus. The paper is worth up to 30 points. It must be submitted through <http://www.turnitin.com> *by the due date* in order to earn credit. For each day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from your point total, although no negative point totals will be given for the midterm papers.

Topics

Choose one of the following topics to write about:

1. Suppose the Athenians now only renovated Theseus's ship in the harbour until every part of it was replaced, but also carefully stored its original parts in a warehouse to reconstruct the ship. Which one—the renovated or the reconstructed ship—is numerically identical to the original ship? Either concisely state Lowe's solution to the puzzle and offer a critical analysis of it, or else formulate your own view, state what you take the most powerful objection to your view, and defend your view against this objection.
2. Consider the problem of qualitative change. Which of the four solutions considered by Lowe do you find most attractive? Articulate the view and defend it against the objections raised in the textbook. If you pick Lowe's own favorite solution, formulate and discuss your best objection against this view.
3. What is the status of non-actual possibilia? In your answer, you may consider the ontological status of non-actual possible world or the reality of future possibilities or the like, and work in whatever framework dealing with modality that you find conducive to your argument. Articulate your answer in adequate detail and provide philosophical justification for it. *Caution:* This topic is harder than the first two and requires quite some philosophical skill to treat it successfully.