

Essay 1

You will be uploading your work to Blackboard so that your instructor can have it checked against web pages and databases of existing papers using *SafeAssign*. Your paper will then automatically become part of the local Trent database for future use.

Topics

Write a 750–1000 word paper on one of the following two topics.

1. Explain, in your own words, Goldman’s arguments against the value of the blogosphere. David Coady, in an article entitled, “An Epistemic Defence of the Blogosphere” disagrees with Goldman. ([LINK to PDF.](#)) Explain, in your own words, his objections to Goldman’s arguments. How might Goldman respond? Who do you think is right and why?
2. James Moor writes that the “invisibility factor presents us with a dilemma.” What does this mean? And what are Moor’s arguments for this claim? To what extent do you think his arguments are good? To what extent are they inadequate? Justify your conclusions.

Value

This essay is worth 20% of course grade.

Learning outcome

- To learn how to write clearly and succinctly
- To think critically about arguments.
- To be able to articulate your own arguments and ideas.

Submission Guidelines

- You must use proper citation, but free to use whatever citation system you feel most comfortable with. (If you’re curious, I like the University of Chicago-style with footnotes, but MLA, APA, or anything else is fine.)
- Name your document as follows: `Lastname_Firstname`
- Submit your paper in Word (.doc or .docx) format or PDF format.
- Include a word count on the front.
- Check the grading rubric.
- NOTE: For every 150 words over the word limit, your essay grade will suffer a penalty of 5%. (Bibliography does not count.)

Deadline

- Papers are due at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 29th, 2015.
- Any assignment submitted after this time and date will be considered late, and assigned a penalty of 1% per calendar day.
- Assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.

Grading

- Because the class is so large, it will be difficult to provide any in-depth comments for all papers in a timely fashion.
- Instead, a grading rubric will be used to assess your paper. The grading rubric is available at the bottom of this page.
- You will have an opportunity to discuss your paper with me or the other faculty member grading your paper.
- Also, use the grading rubric to guide the writing of your own paper.