

BLACKBOARD PROJECT HANDOUT

Analyze one of the following films in relation to assignments from *Fifty Readings in Philosophy* (and the PDFs and HTMLs). Refer to the syllabus for readings associated with the following topics: (1) **Epistemology & Ontology**, (2) **The Mind-Body Problem**, (3) **Personal Identity**, (4) **The Existence of God**, and (5) **Free Will and Determinism**. Some questions to consider: (1) What is the distinction between reality and illusion? On what basis can one make and trust such a distinction? (2) What is the mind (self), and how can it be known? Is the mind distinct from the body, or is it identical with the brain? (3) What is the nature of personal identity, and what accounts for its persistence across space-time? Is it possible for someone to be more than one person? (4) Does God exist? On what basis can one attempt to prove or disprove such existence? (5) Do humans have free will, or are all things that exist merely components of a physical universe governed by necessity?

[Waking Life \(2001\) – 99 min.](#)

[Colorful \(2010\) – 126 min.](#)

[A Scanner Darkly \(2006\) – 100 min.](#)

[Ghost in the Shell \(1995\) – 83 min.](#)

[The Menagerie I & II \[STAR TREK TOS\] \(1966\) – 100 min.](#)

[Memento \(2000\) – 113 min.](#)

[The Science of Sleep \(2006\) – 105 min.](#)

[Surrogates \(2009\) – 89 min.](#)

[Being John Malkovich \(1999\) – 112 min.](#)

[1984 \(1984\) – 113 min.](#)

[Moon \(2009\) – 97 min.](#)

[Dark City \(1998\) – 100 min.](#)

[District 9 \(2009\) – 112 min.](#)

[Total Recall \(1990\) – 113 min.](#)

[The Matrix \(1999\) – 136 min.](#)

[**BLADE RUNNER** \(1982\) – 117 min.](#)

[Prometheus \(2012\) – 124 min.](#)

[The Seventh Seal \(1957\) – 96 min.](#)

FORMAT – 5 – 7 pages (**not counting title page or bibliography**), double-spaced, 12-pt Calibri font, 1” margins. Use [Chicago Notes and Bibliography](#) style for citations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – Papers **must** make specific references to at least three assigned readings from *Fifty Readings in Philosophy* or assigned PDFs. In addition, feel free to cite other class readings or outside sources where appropriate.

GRADING – The paper is worth 20% of the final grade. Papers will be graded according to the overall quality of analysis, clarifications, observations, and reasoning provided.

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO EXHIBIT COLLEGE-LEVEL PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH.

Students who struggle with spelling or grammar are advised to make use of the free services provided by UK’s Writing Center, located in the W. T. Young Library: <http://wrd.as.uky.edu/writing-center>.

For advice about how to write a good philosophy paper, read Jim Pryor’s:

[**GUIDELINES ON WRITING A PHILOSOPHY PAPER.**](#)

DUE DATE – Papers must be submitted to [Blackboard](#), [e-mailed to instructor](#), and printed out. **Due December 1st.**